

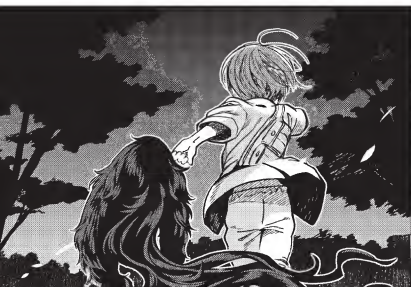
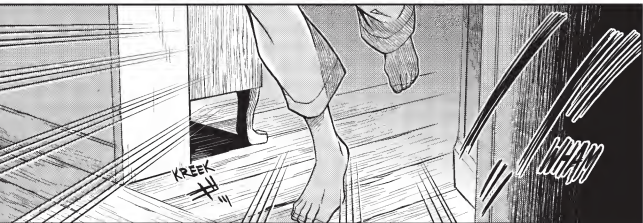
The Ancient Magus' Bride

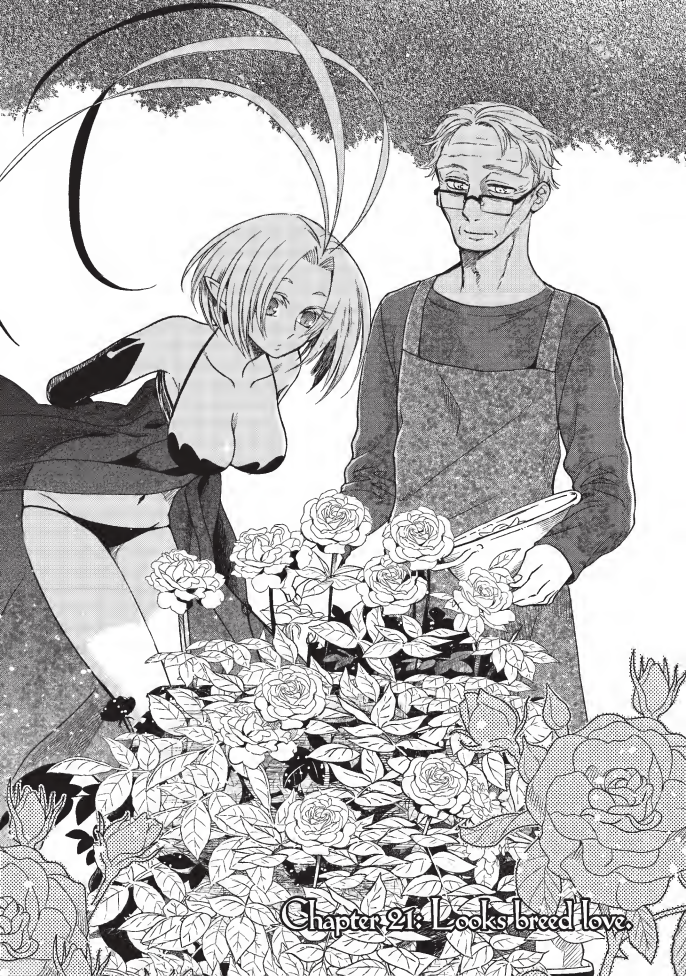
Story & Art by
KORE YAMAZAKI

The Ancient Magus' Bride



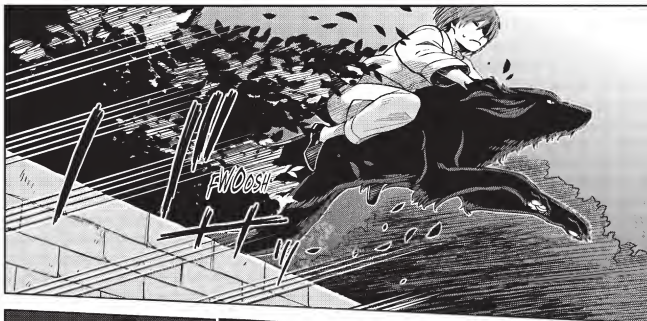


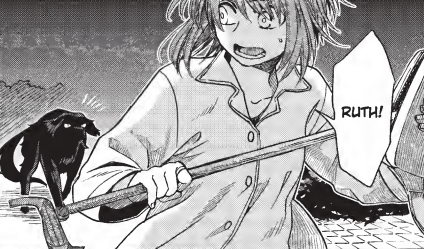


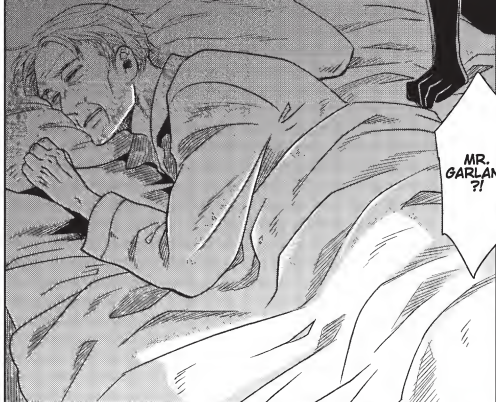


Chapter 21: Looks breed love.









MR.
GARLAND
?!



TH-
THMP

THMP

TH-
THMP

THERE.

HIS
HEART'S
STILL
BEATING.



SIR?!

JOEL
--!



He's been
like this
all day.

Even on
days when
he sleeps
late, he
always
wakes by
noon!

I... I tried
...

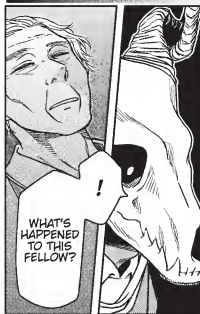
But
...

I...I can't
do any-
thing...!



BUT HE'S
SO MUCH
PALER
THAN THE
LAST TIME
I SAW HIM.

I
WONDERED
WHERE
YOU'D
SUDDENLY
DASHED
OFF TO.

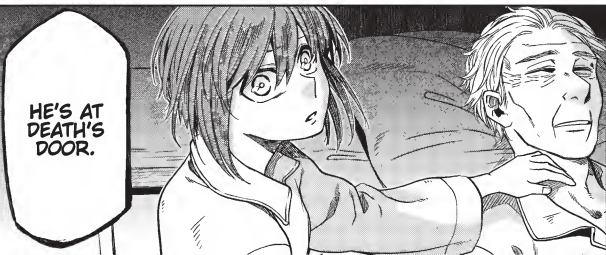


WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO THIS
FELLOW?

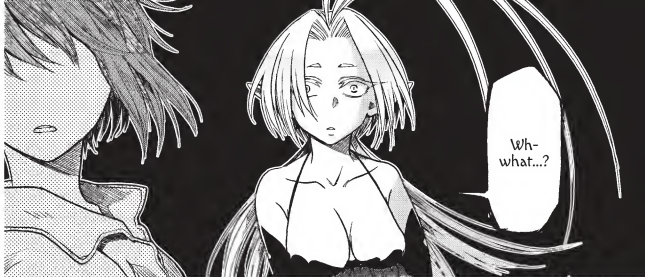


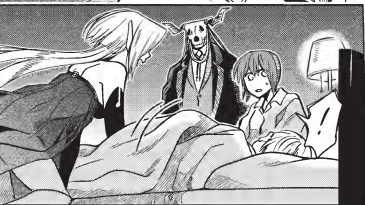
WHAT'S
GOING
ON,
THEN?

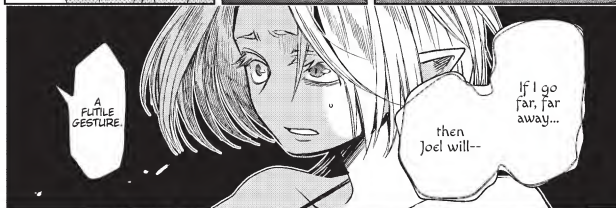
ELIAS!

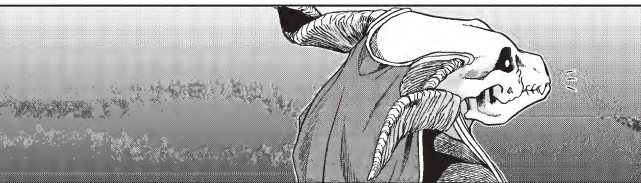


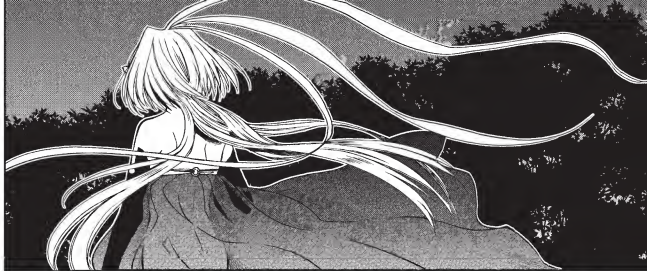
HE'S AT
DEATH'S
DOOR.











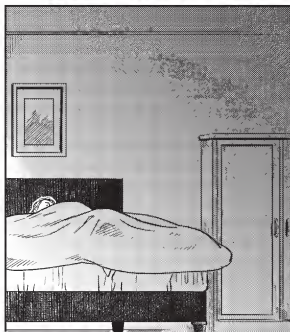
THEN...

IF I LOVE
HIM...

IF...



WE'LL
HAVE TO
SEE THAT
LOVE
THROUGH.





IT'S
NIGHT-
TIME...?



HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?

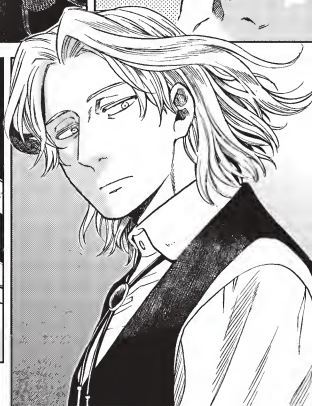


DEATH
...?



ARE
YOU...

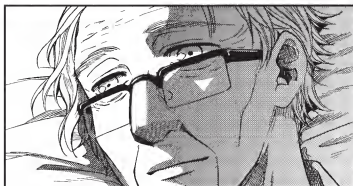
SHFL

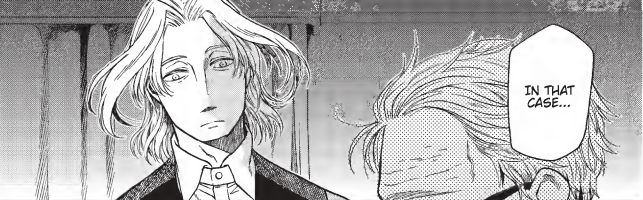


THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
KINDNESS
TO MY
WARD.

IN A
SENSE.









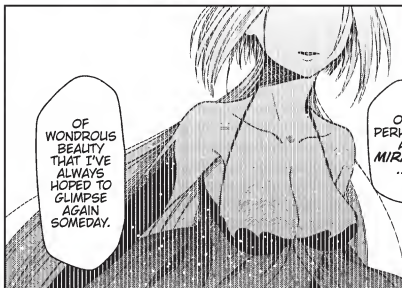
BUT
THERE'S
NOTHING
WRONG
WITH
GROWING
OLD. IT'S
JUST
ANOTHER
CHANGE.



BUT
HER
ROSE
GARDEN
...
SAVED
ME FROM
THE
WORST
OF MY
GRIEF.

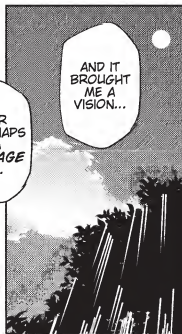


MY WIFE
PASSED
AWAY
WHEN
WE WERE
BOTH
YOUNG.



OF
WONDROUS
BEAUTY
THAT I'VE
ALWAYS
HOPED TO
GLIMPSE
AGAIN
SOMEDAY.

OR
PERHAPS
A
MIRAGE
...



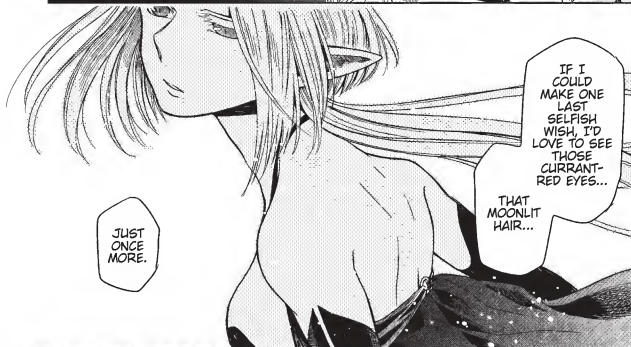
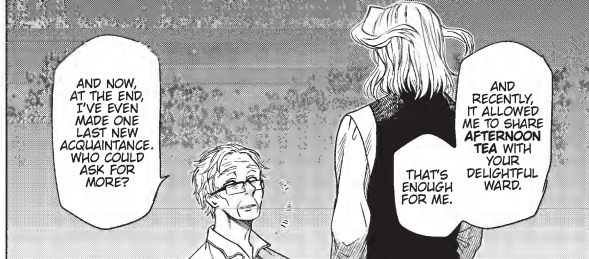
AND IT
BROUGHT
ME A
VISION...



GROWING
OLDER AND
FEELING
DEATH'S
APPROACH
IS SCARY.

YOUR EYES
TIRE WHEN
YOU READ,
AND YOUR
HANDS
ARE TOO
UNSTEADY
TO WRITE
CLEARLY...

WHEN YOU
WAKE UP
EACH DAY,
YOU NEVER
KNOW WHAT
YOU'LL BE
TOO OLD
TO DO.





TO
LEANNÁN
SIDHE, A
HUMAN
MAN
SHOULD
BE ONLY
FOOD.

WHAT A
PECULIAR
SITUATION.



WHEN
YOU SAID
HE ONLY
HAS A
WEEK
LEFT?

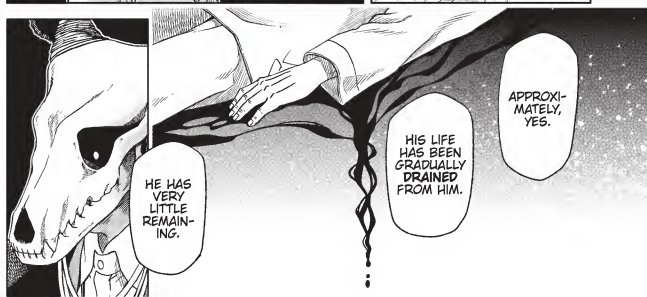
DID
YOU
MEAN
IT...



I
SEE.

YOU MET
HIM WHILE
SEARCHING
FOR ME?

YEAH.

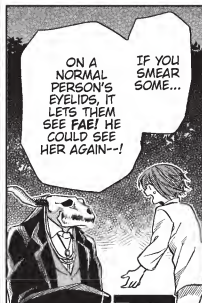
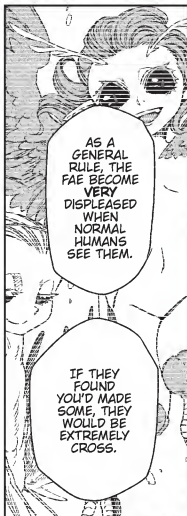


HE HAS
VERY
LITTLE
REMAIN-
ING.

HIS LIFE
HAS BEEN
GRADUALLY
DRAINED
FROM HIM.

APPROXI-
MATELY,
YES.







EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST
FOR A
MOMENT

...

JUST
LONG
ENOUGH
TO SAY
A FEW
WORDS...

I WANT
TO LET
THEM--



YOU'VE
NEVER
PUSHED
TO GET
SOMETHING
YOU WANT
BEFORE.



THAT'S
WHAT I
OUGHT
TO SAY.

BUT
I WILL
ALLOW
IT.



HUH?



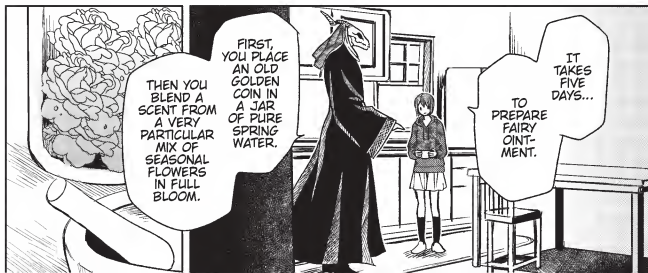
NO.



BUT YOU MUSTN'T
GET
CARRIED
AWAY AND
EXHAUST
YOURSELF.

UNDER-
STOOD?

YES!



FIRST,
YOU PLACE
AN OLD
GOLDEN
COIN IN
A JAR
OF PURE
SPRING
WATER.

THEN YOU
BLEND A
SCENT FROM
A VERY
PARTICULAR
MIX OF
SEASONAL
FLOWERS
IN FULL
BLOOM.

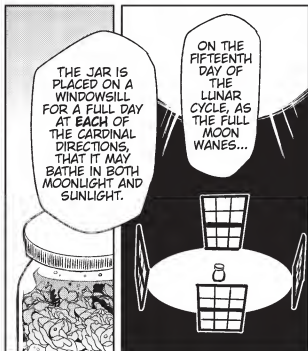
TO
PREPARE
FAIRY
OINT-
MENT.

IT
TAKES
FIVE
DAYS...



BUT EVEN IF
YOU FOLLOW
THE STEPS
PERFECTLY,
IT MAY WELL
STILL FAIL.

REALLY?
WHY?



THE JAR IS
PLACED ON A
WINDOWSILL
FOR A FULL DAY
AT EACH OF
THE CARDINAL
DIRECTIONS,
THAT IT MAY
BATHE IN BOTH
MOONLIGHT AND
SUNLIGHT.

ON THE
FIFTEENTH
DAY OF
THE
LUNAR
CYCLE, AS
THE FULL
MOON
WANES...



YOU MUST
STABILIZE THE
OINTMENT
USING ONLY
YOUR OWN
MAGIC.

THEY WILL
NOT HELP
YOU, NO
MATTER
HOW YOU
ASK.

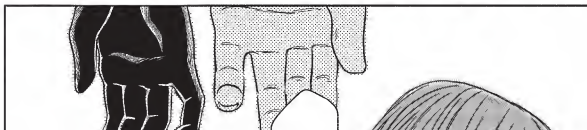
BECAUSE
FAE DO NOT
LIKE BEING
EXPOSED TO
NORMAL
HUMANS...



YOU MAY
NOT GET
ANY
SLEEP
AT ALL.

DO
YOU STILL
WISH TO
UNDERTAKE
THIS?

THAT MEANS
SUPERVISING
THE
PROCESS
PERSONALLY
FOR THE
FULL
FIVE DAYS.



I
KNOW.

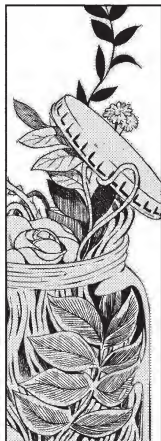






Chapter 22:

A contented mind is a perpetual feast.



I HAVE
NO
IDEA.

WAGGLE
=
WAGGLE
WAGGLE

WHY
DOES IT
DO THAT
WHENEVER
YOU HOLD
THE JAR?



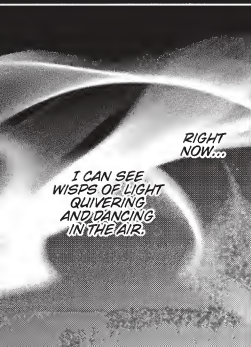
I'm sorry
I can't
help,
either.

UGH...

IF
YOU CAN'T
MAINTAIN
IT IN THE
CORRECT
STATE UNTIL
MOONRISE,
YOU RISK
FAILURE.
AND IN
THIS, I
CANNOT
HELP
YOU.

SHOVE





*RIGHT
NOW...*

*I CAN SEE
WISPS OF LIGHT
QUIVERING
AND DANCING
IN THE AIR.*



*WHEN I
WORK
WITH
MAGIC...*

*IT OPENS
MY EYES TO
EVERYTHING
AROUND ME.*

OR EVEN
THE SOFT
WHITE OF
THE LIGHT
AT DAWN.

OR THE
GREEN OF
A DEEP
FOREST...

OR THE
BLUE
OF THE
OCEAN...

I SEE IT
AS THE
COLOR OF
STARLIGHT...

APPARENTLY,
THAT'S
ACTUAL
MAGICAL
ENERGY.

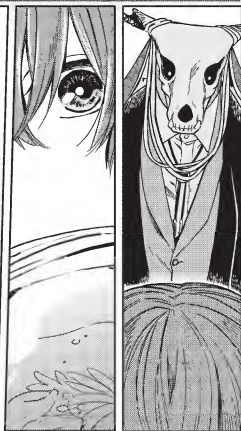
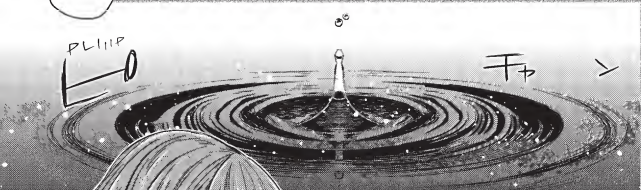
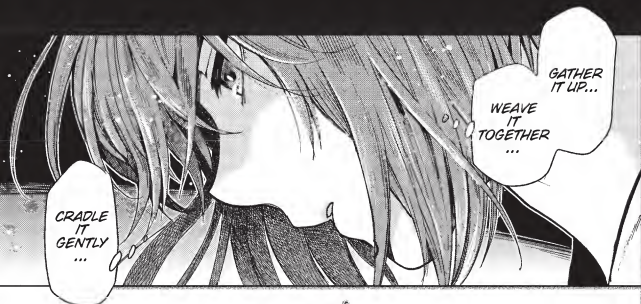
WHEN
NEIGHBORS
HELP ME DO
MAGIC...

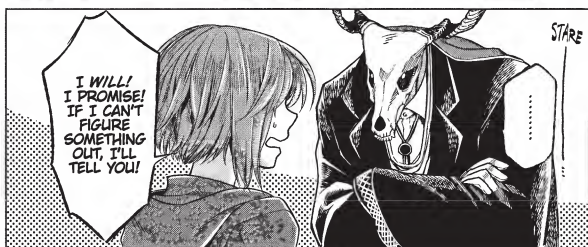
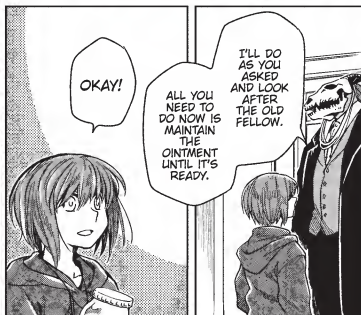
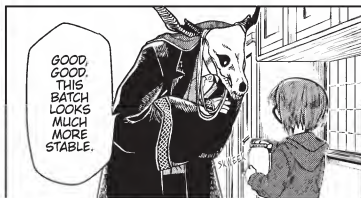
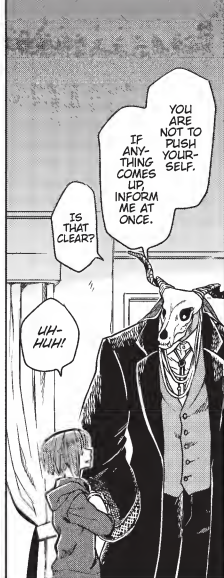
THEY
USUALLY EAT
THAT LIGHT
AND DO THE
WORK OF
THE SPELL
FOR ME.

GLEAM...

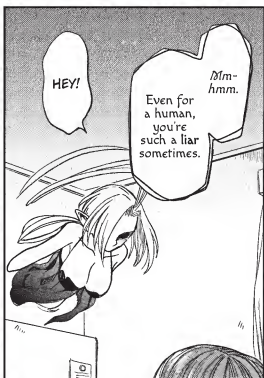
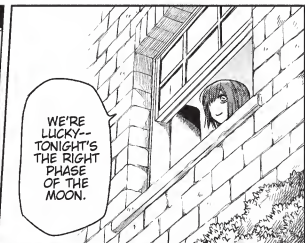
BUT THIS
TIME, I
DON'T HAVE
THEIR HELP.

I HAVE TO
DO IT ALL
MYSELF.



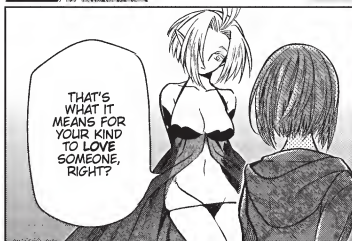


BTAM

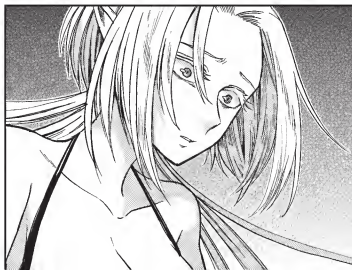




WELL
...



THAT'S
WHAT IT
MEANS FOR
YOUR KIND
TO LOVE
SOMEONE,
RIGHT?



IS AS
NATURAL
FOR YOU
AS
BREATHING
IS FOR
LIVING
CREATURES.

FALLING
IN LOVE
OVER AND
OVER
AGAIN...

As a sleigh
beggy and a
mage, you're
closer to us
than most...

but
you're
still
human.

And humans
fear things
that...
that feed
on them.

AND
ULTIMATELY,
I'M DOING
THIS FOR
MYSELF.

MAYBE
I AM
SCARED,
IN A WAY,
BUT...
I'M ALSO
NOT. DOES
THAT MAKE
SENSE?



SO...

I DON'T
LIKE BEING
AROUND
PEOPLE
WHO'RE
SCARY OR
YELL A LOT.

I DON'T
LIKE
BEING IN
PAIN OR
UPSET.

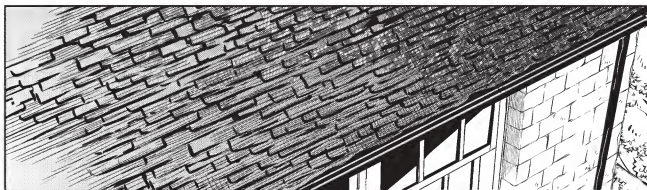
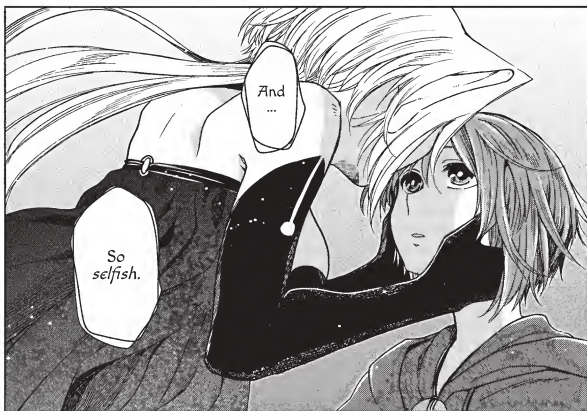


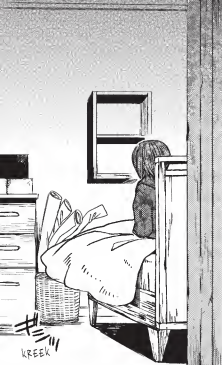
I WANT
THOSE
PEOPLE TO
STAY HAPPY
AND KEEP
SMILING,
THAT'S ALL.

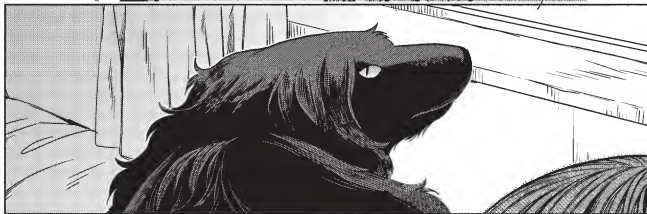
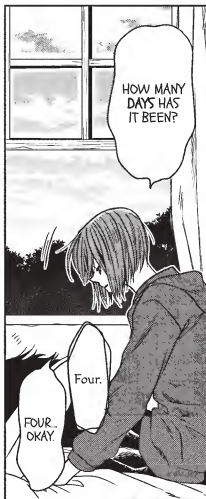


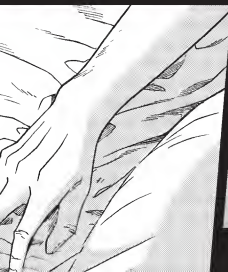
IT'S
SELFISH,
BUT...

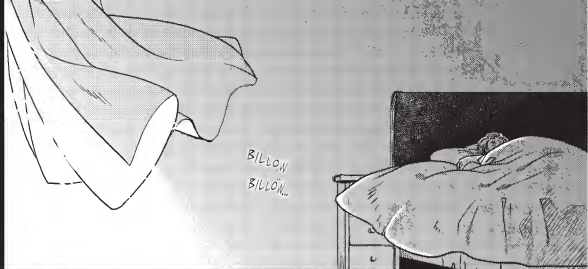
I
APPRECIATE
PEOPLE
WHO
SMILE
AROUND
ME.







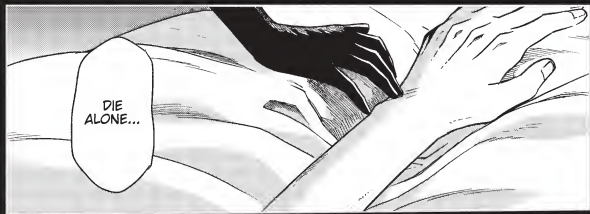
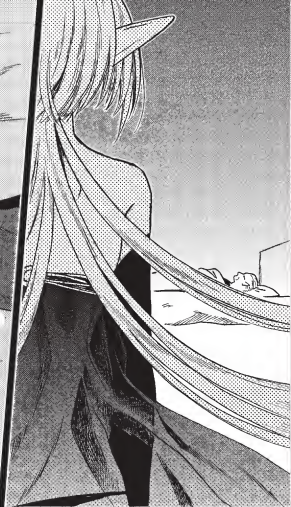




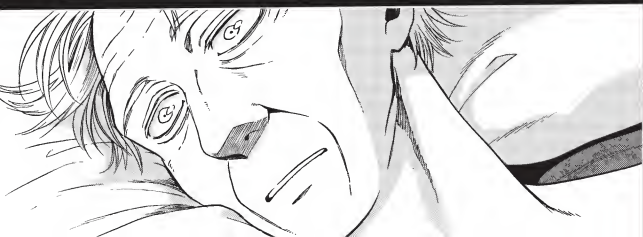


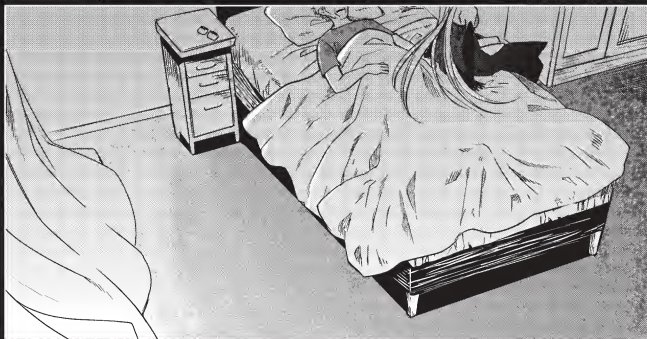
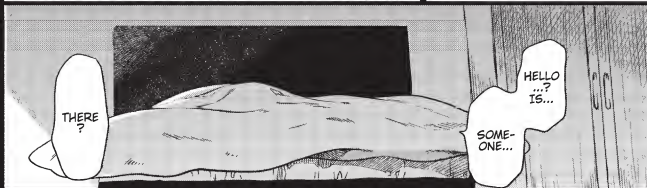
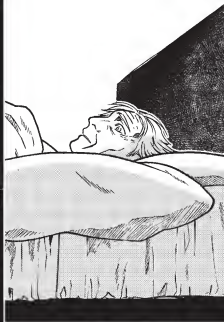
IT'S
FRIGHT-
ENING...

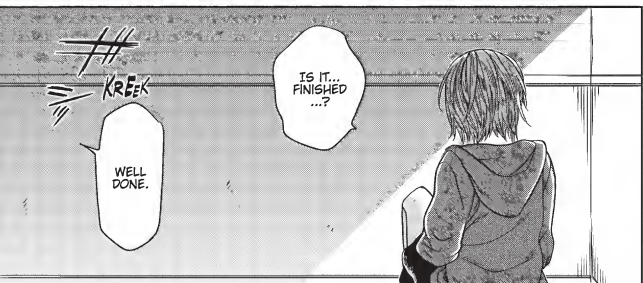
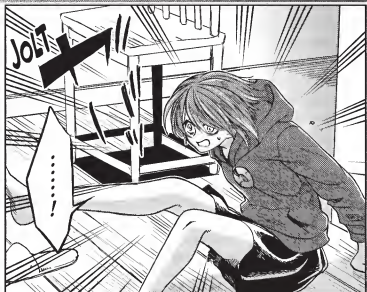
TO...

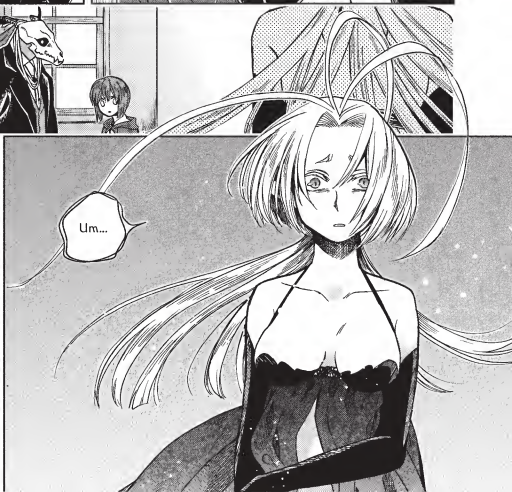
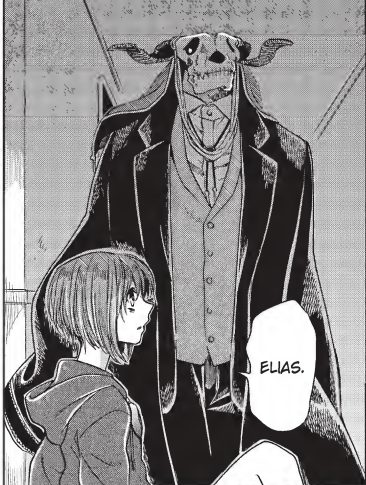


DIE
ALONE...

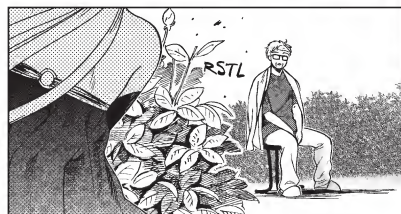
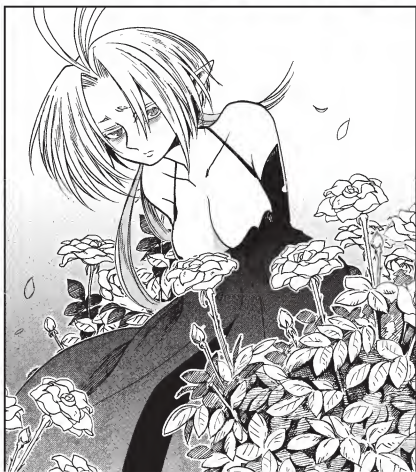
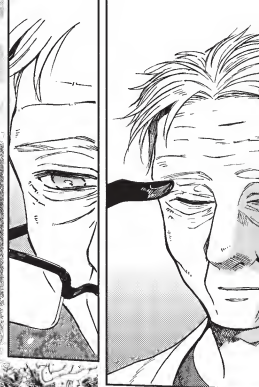


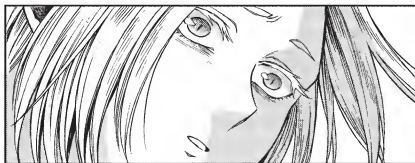


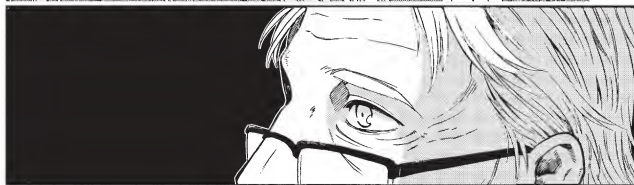
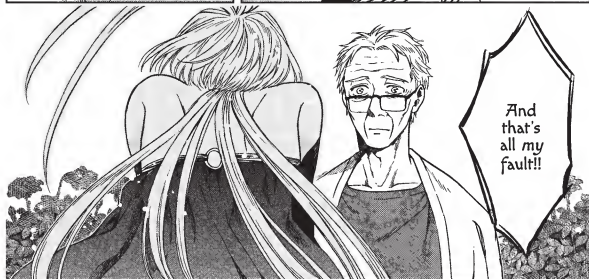
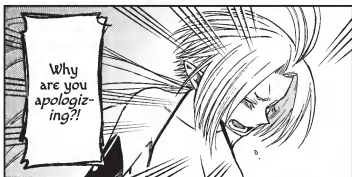


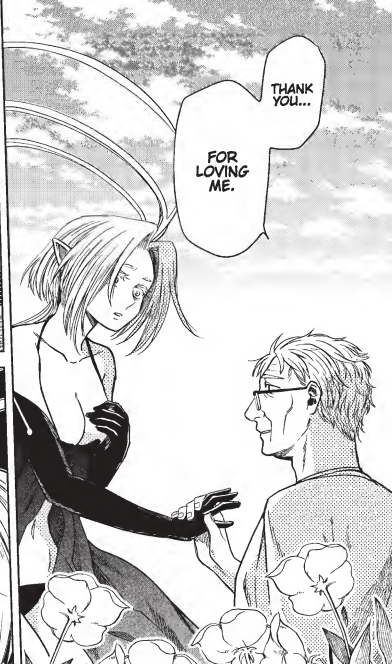


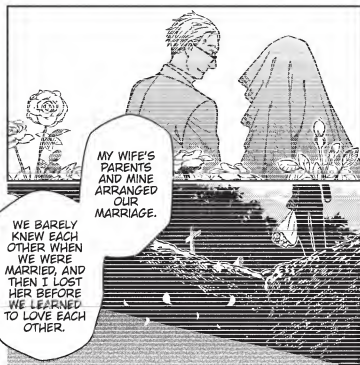
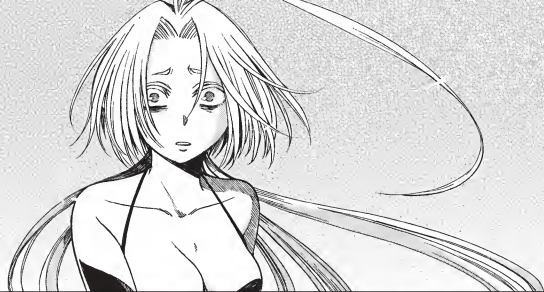






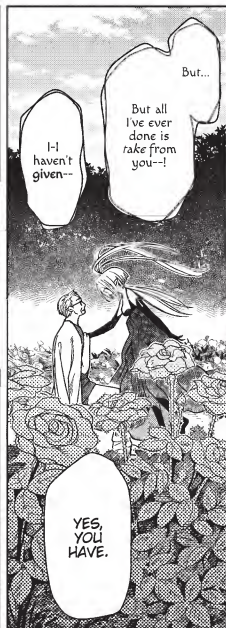






MY WIFE'S
PARENTS
AND MINE
ARRANGED
OUR
MARRIAGE.

WE BARELY
KNEW EACH
OTHER WHEN
WE WERE
MARRIED, AND
THEN I LOST
HER BEFORE
WE LEARNED
TO LOVE EACH
OTHER.



But...

But all
I've ever
done is
rake from
you--!

I-I
haven't
given--

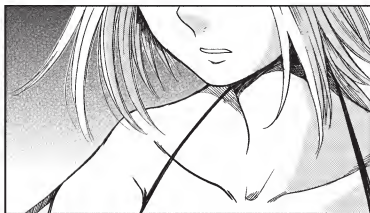
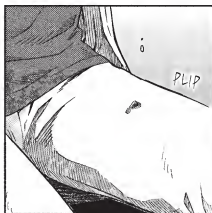
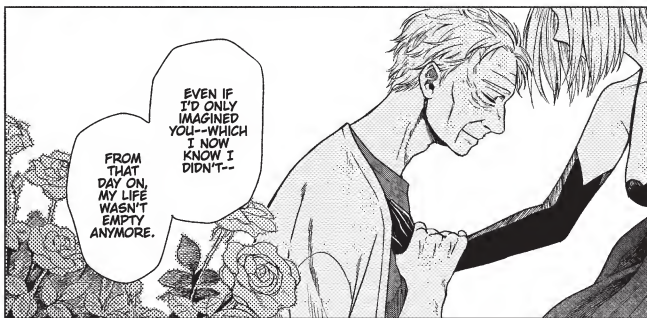
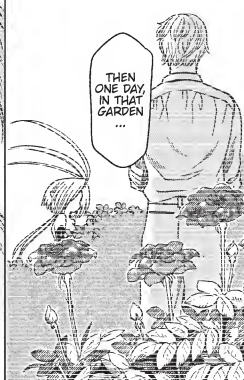
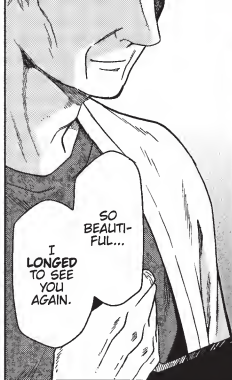


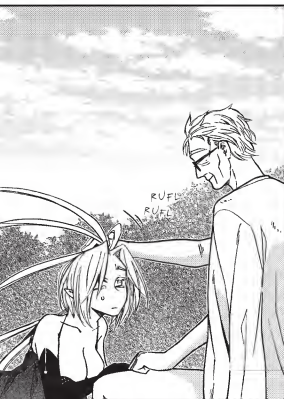
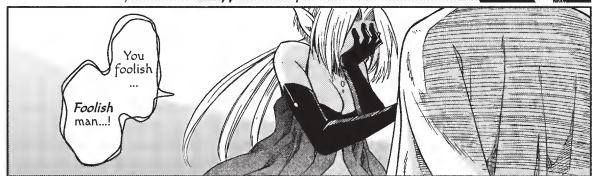
I WAS
LONELY.

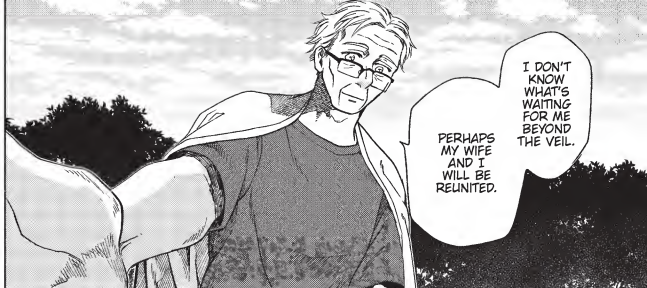
I HAD NO
HOBBIES OR
PASSIONS OF
MY OWN, SO
I CLUNG TO
HER ROSE
GARDEN.

BUT THAT
QUICKLY
BECAME
NOTHING
BUT HABIT.

YES,
YOU
HAVE.







PERHAPS
MY WIFE
AND I
WILL BE
REUNITED.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
WAITING
FOR ME
BEYOND
THE VEIL.



SOME
PART OF
ME WILL
RETURN
TO BE
WITH
YOU.

BUT I
THINK...

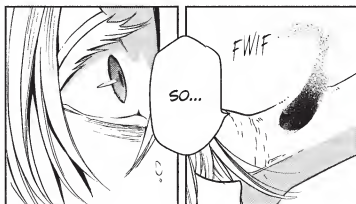


MY
LIFE IS
YOURS.
PLEASE
TAKE IT.



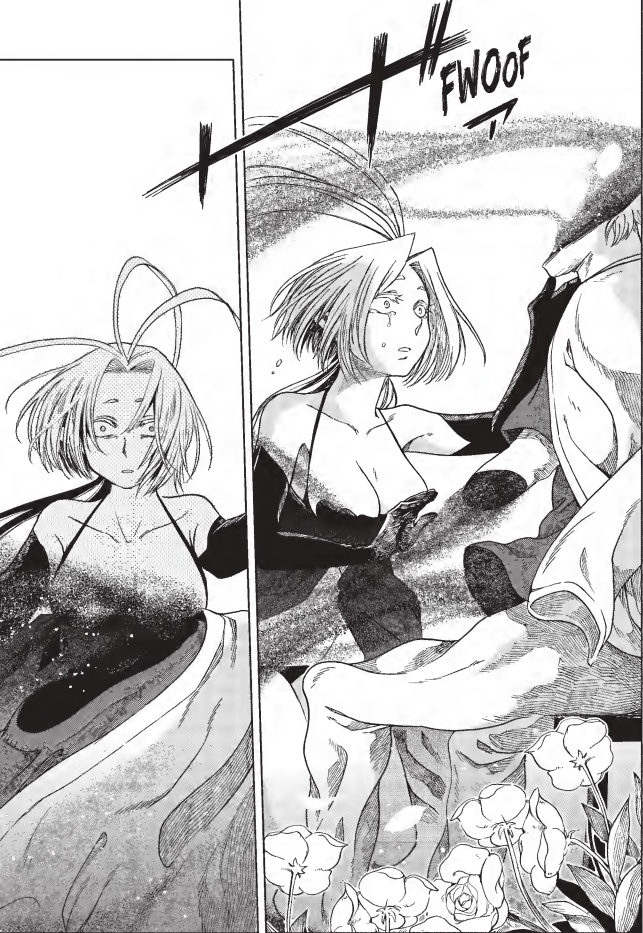
I'M NOT
AFRAID
AT ALL.

NOW THAT
I'M NOT
ALONE...
NOW THAT
I KNOW
SOMEONE'S
WAITING
FOR ME...



SO...

FWIF





Didn't even give me time to answer.



SIIISH...



Truly are selfish fools.

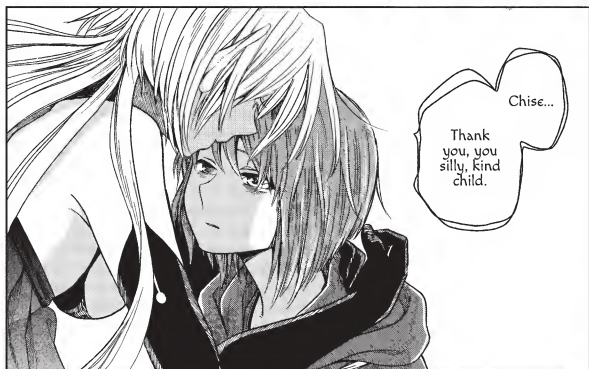
Humans ...

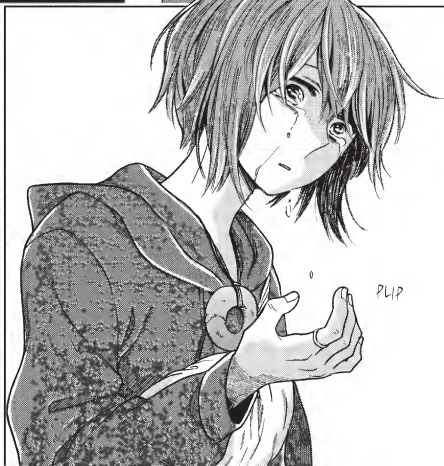
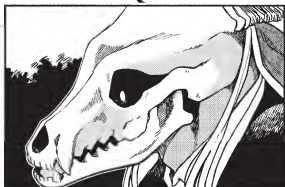
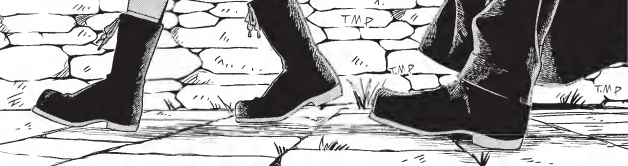


Stay here.

But I'll...









PECU-
LIAR.

AS IF
SOME-
THING
INSIDE
ME IS...
SQUIRM-
ING.



D RIP
D RIP

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
ELIAS?

I'M NOT
SURE
WHY,
THOUGH.



BUT
SEEING
YOU CRY
MAKES
ME FEEL...

I
COULD
NOT
SAY.



NOT
TO WORRY.

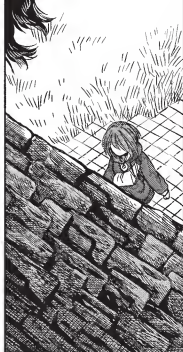
I'M SORRY.
I'M NOT
BEING A
VERY GOOD
TEACHER.



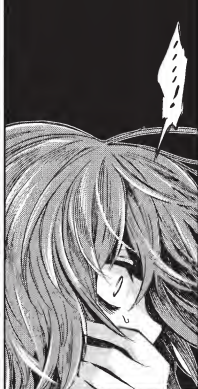
OKAY.

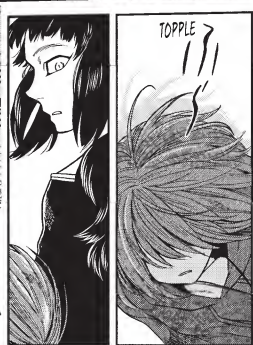
YOU'VE
BARELY
SLEPT IN
THE PAST
FIVE DAYS.

YOU'D
BEST
HURRY
TO BED.



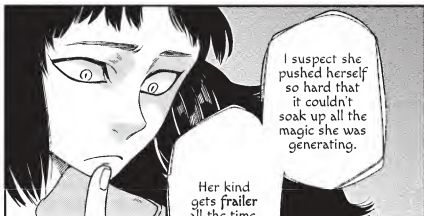
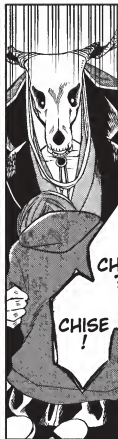


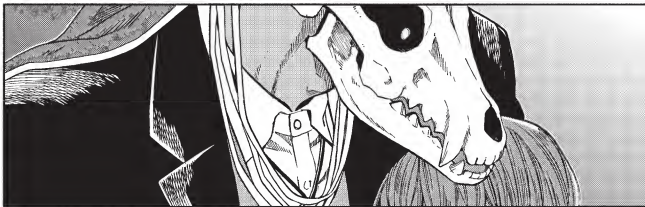
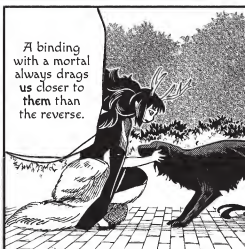


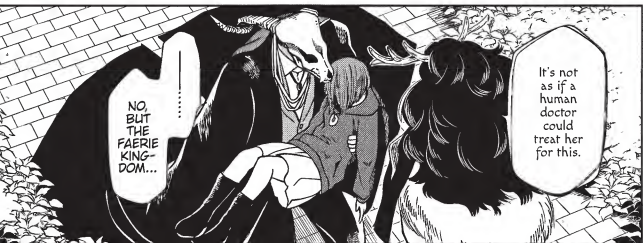
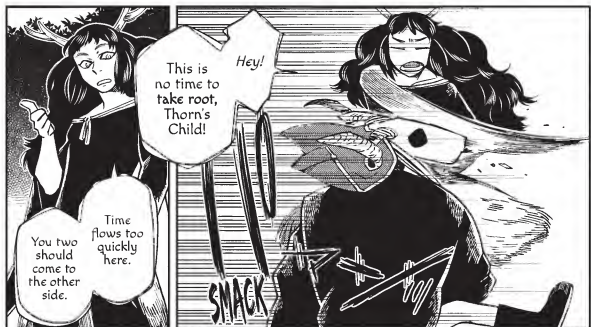
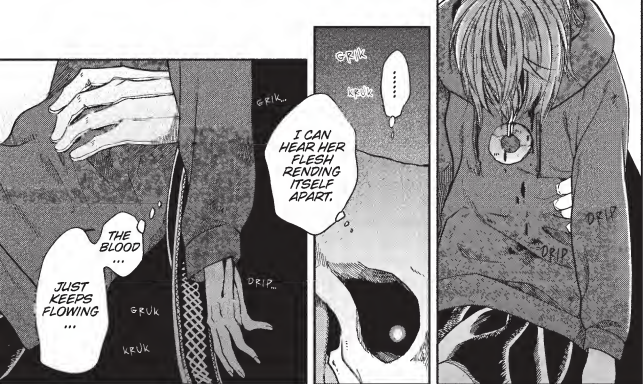


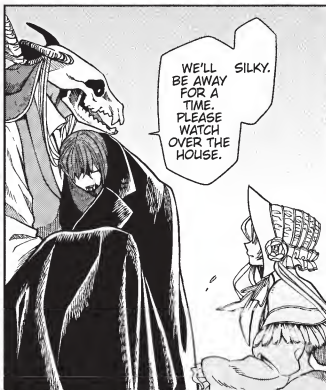


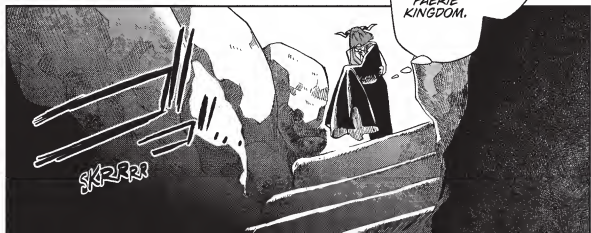
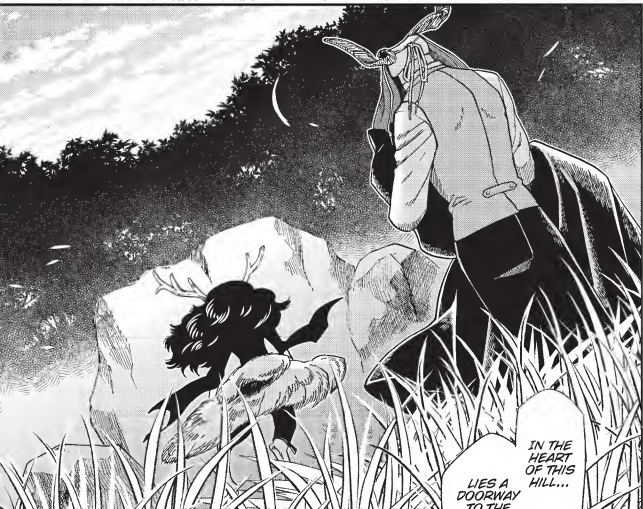
Chapter 23:
Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

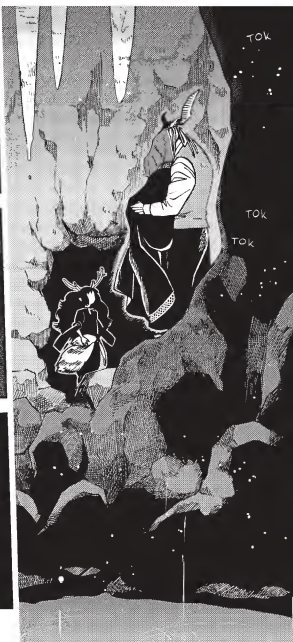
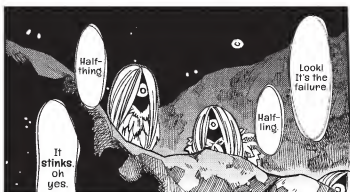
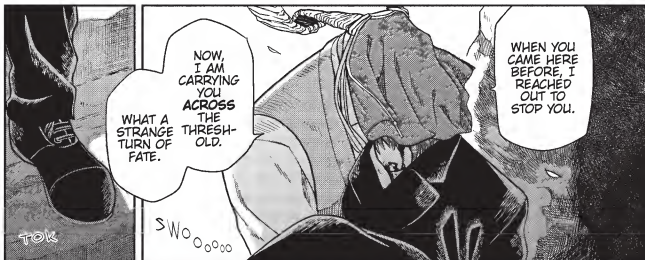








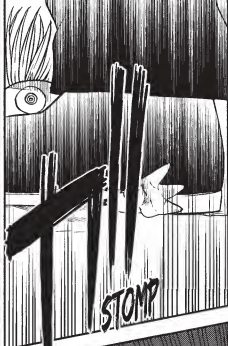




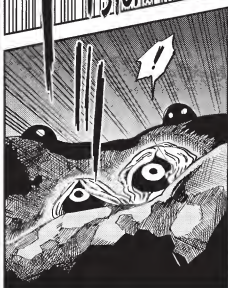


YOU
WILL
NOT
TOUCH
HER.

GRIND...

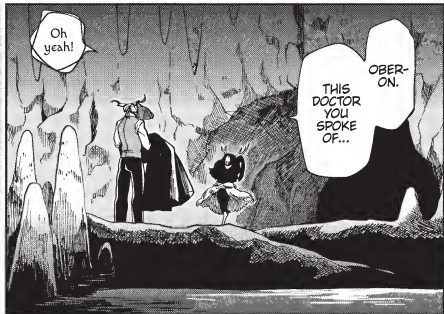


STOMP



She's a
strange
one,
especially
lately. The
thing is...

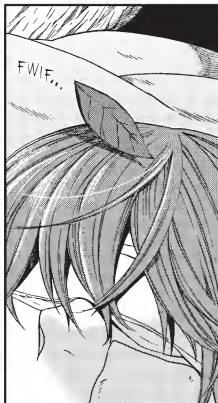
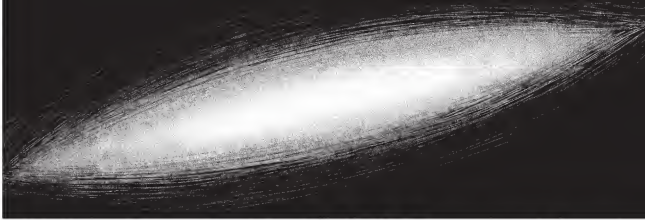
She
came
back.



Oh
yeah!

THIS
DOCTOR
YOU
SPOKE
OF...

OBER-
ON.



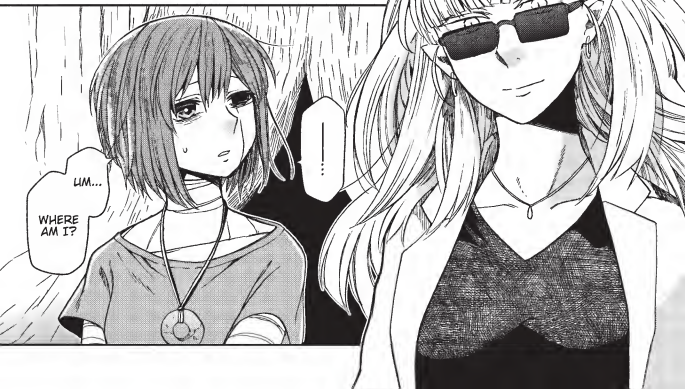


LET
ME GET
THOSE
BANDAGES
OFF.



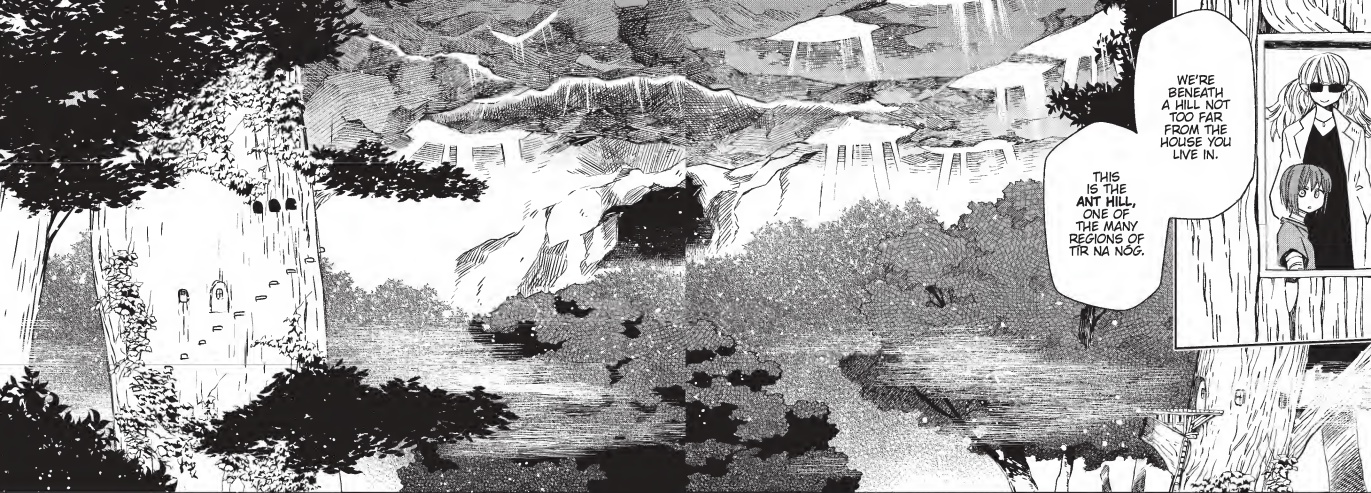
IT TAKES
MAGIC FOR
YOUR KIND
TO SEE
US. YOU
REALLY
OUGHT TO
REST.

BUT I
GUESS
BEING IN
THE DARK
WOULD JUST
PUT MORE
STRAIN
ON YOU.



UM...

WHERE
AM I?



WE'RE
BENEATH
A HILL, NOT
TOO FAR
FROM THE
HOUSE YOU
LIVE IN.

THIS
IS THE
ANT HILL,
ONE OF
THE MANY
REGIONS OF
TIR NA NÓG.



RIGHT
NOW, THE
CHARM
AROUND
YOUR
WRIST IS
HOLDING
YOU TO-
GETHER.



MAGIC
FLOWS
THROUGH
YOUR VEINS
LIKE BLOOD.
YOUR
INTERNAL
ORGANS ARE
SATURATED
WITH IT.

YOU
GENERATED
WAY TOO
MUCH
MAGICAL
ENERGY,
AND THE
STRAIN MADE
YOUR BODY
START TO
RUPTURE.

IF YOU
MOVE
TOO
MUCH,
YOU'LL
REOPEN
THOSE
WOUNDS.



URK!

TH-
THANK
YOU...
VERY
MUCH.

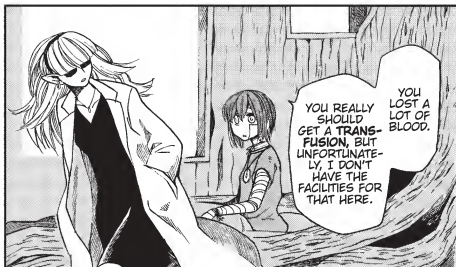
HERE,
DRINK
THIS.

KOFF
KOFF



TIR
NA
NÓG
...?

THE
FARRIE
KING-
DOM?

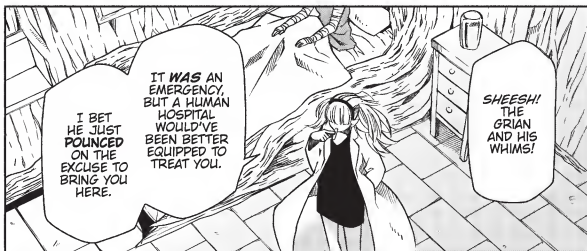


YOU REALLY SHOULD GET A TRANSFUSION, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE THE FACILITIES FOR THAT HERE.

YOU LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.



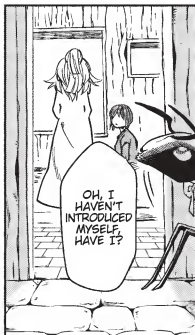
YOUR PULSE IS STILL WEAK.



I BET HE JUST POUNCED ON THE EXCUSE TO BRING YOU HERE.

IT WAS AN EMERGENCY, BUT A HUMAN HOSPITAL WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER EQUIPPED TO TREAT YOU.

SHEESH! THE GRIAN AND HIS WHIMS!



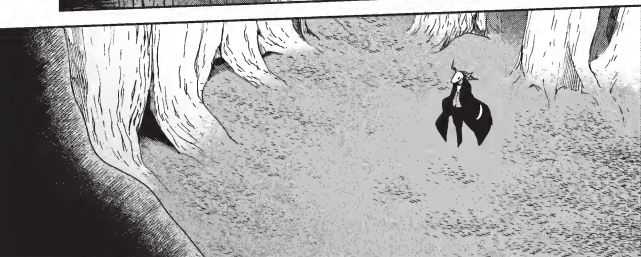
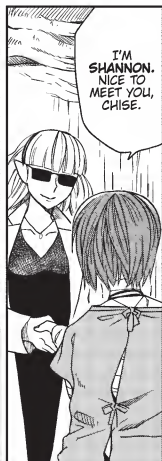
OH, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF, HAVE I?

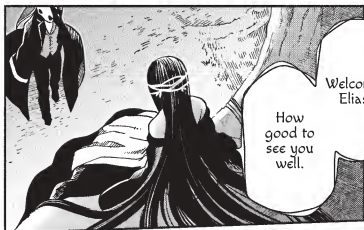
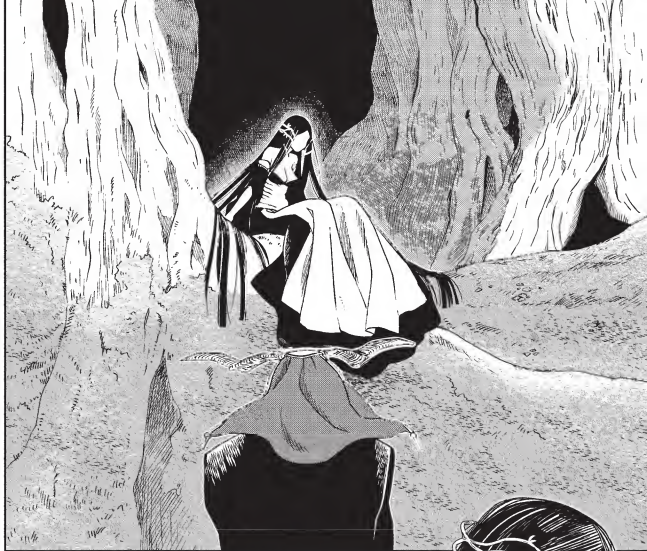


UM...



EXCUSE ME, BUT...
ARE YOU HUMAN ...?



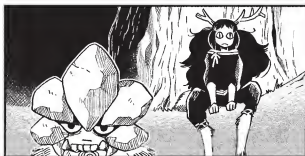
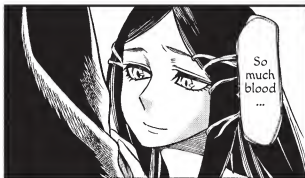


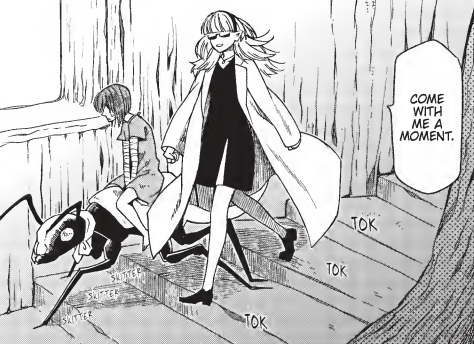
Welcome,
Elias.

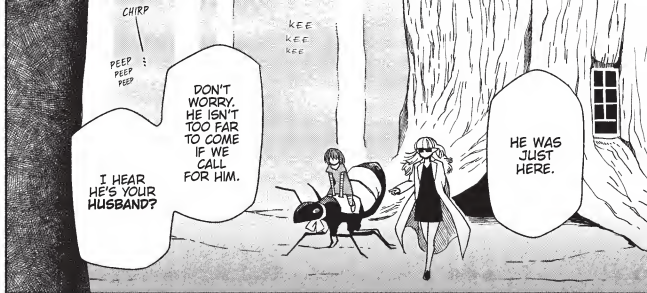
How
good to
see you
well.











CHIRP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP

KEE
KEE
KEE

I HEAR
HE'S YOUR
HUSBAND?

DON'T
WORRY.
HE ISN'T
TOO FAR
TO COME
IF WE
CALL
FOR HIM.

HE WAS
JUST
HERE.

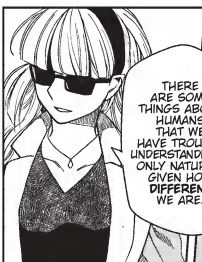


PEEP
PEEP

TWEET

UM...

NOT THAT
BEING
FROM
THE SAME
SPECIES
GUARANTEES
UNDER-
STANDING,
OF COURSE.



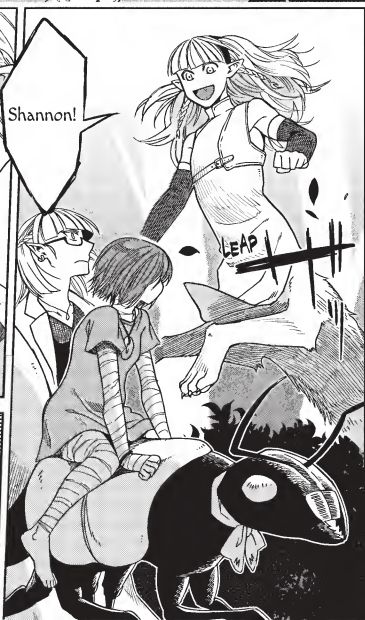
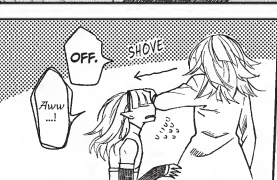
THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS ABOUT
HUMANS
THAT WE
HAVE TROUBLE
UNDERSTANDING--
ONLY NATURAL,
GIVEN HOW
DIFFERENT
WE ARE.

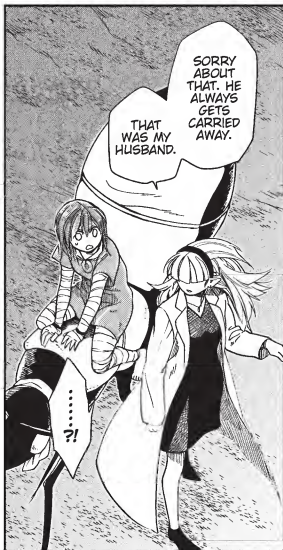
I TRUST
YOU'VE
MADE
SURE YOUR
FEELINGS
ARE
MUTUAL?



OH...?
IF YOU
SAY SO.

H-HE
ISN'T MY
HUSBAND
...
HE'S
TEACHING
ME MAGIC.



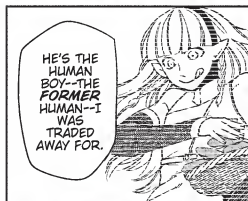




WELL,
I DID LIVE
AMONG
THEM FOR
HALF A
CENTURY.

THAT
LONG
?!

UH,
SHANNON?
YOU SEEM
AWFULLY
HUMAN.



HE'S THE
HUMAN
BOY--THE
FORMER
HUMAN--I
WAS
TRADED
AWAY FOR.



WHAT
--?



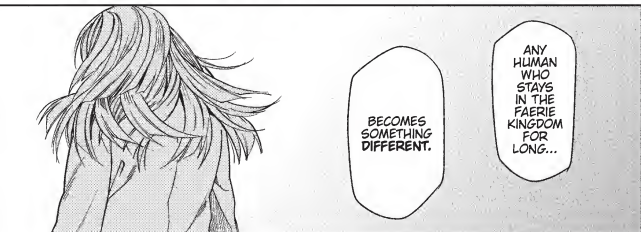
SHANAHAN.
MY
HUSBAND.



FOR
MOST
OF THAT
TIME, I
DIDN'T
EVEN
KNOW
I WAS
FAE.

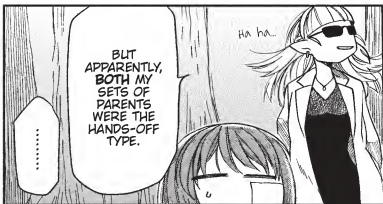
BUT...
YOU
SAW
HIM,
RIGHT?

HUH?



BECOMES
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT.

ANY
HUMAN
WHO
STAYS
IN THE
FAERIE
KINGDOM
FOR LONG...



BUT
APPARENTLY,
BOTH MY
SETS OF
PARENTS
WERE THE
HANDS-OFF
TYPE.

Ha ha...



THEY
DIDN'T
LIKE
YOU...?

AND
HERE
I AM.



BUT ONE
NIGHT,
SHANAHAN
CAME TO
GET ME.

I WAS A
DOCTOR AT
THE LOCAL
HOSPITAL.
MOST OF
MY PEERS
WEREN'T
FOND OF
ME.



NO
NEED
FOR
THAT.

OH.
I'M
SORRY.

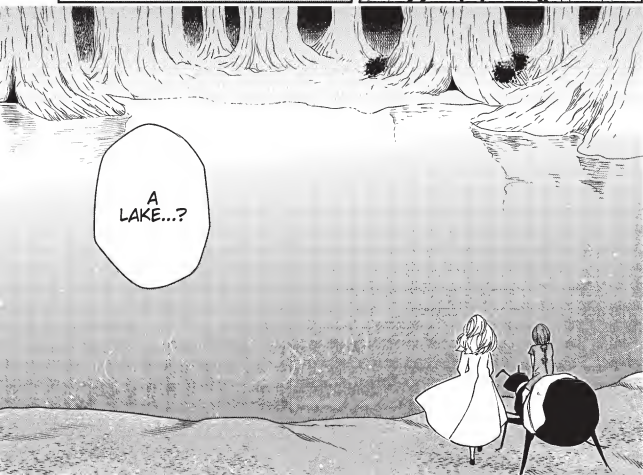
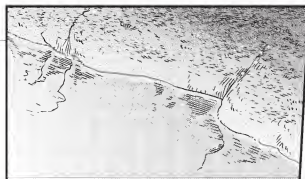


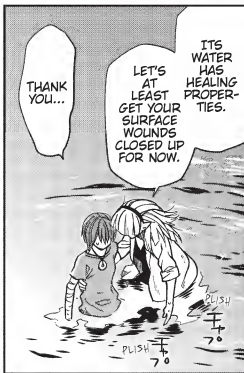
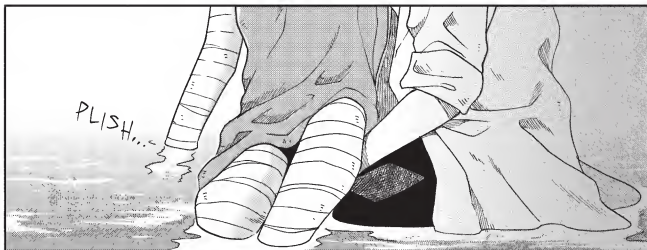
HUMANS
GET SCARED
AND
SUSPICIOUS
WHEN
SOMEONE
DOESN'T
AGE
NORMALLY.

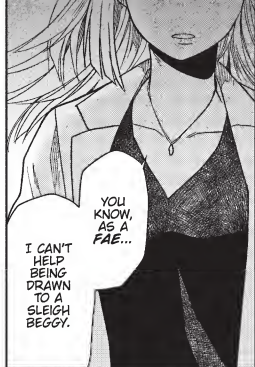


USUALLY
THE HUMAN
PARENTS
NOTICE THE
SWITCH FAIRLY
SOON, OR
THE FAE
PARENTS
RETURN TO
CLAIM THEIR
CHILD.

WHEN
A FAE INFANT
IS USED AS A
CHANGELING
AND TRADED
FOR A HUMAN
NEWBORN,
IT'S THE FAE
PARENTS'
CHOICE.







YOU KNOW, AS A FAE...



SEEP

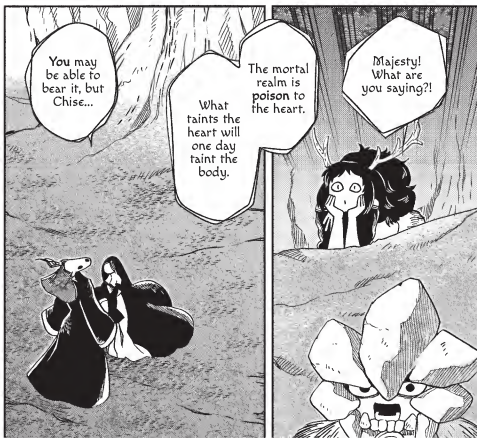
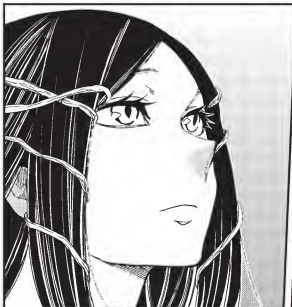
PLISH



BUT...



SPLOOSH

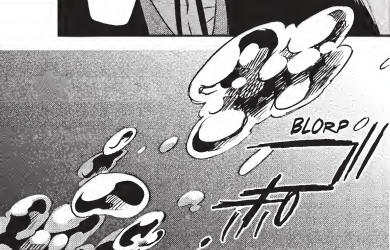
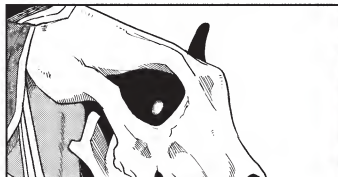


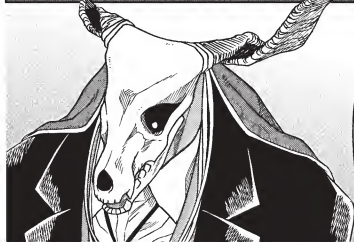
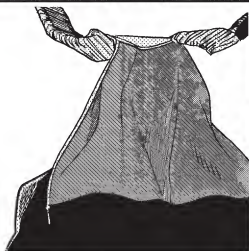


You'd
serve her
best by
helping her
shed her
human
trappings
and fully
become one
of us.

If you
truly do
care for
her...

She is
our sweet
robin, a
mortal
more fae
than
human.



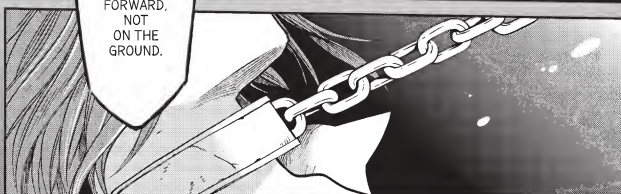
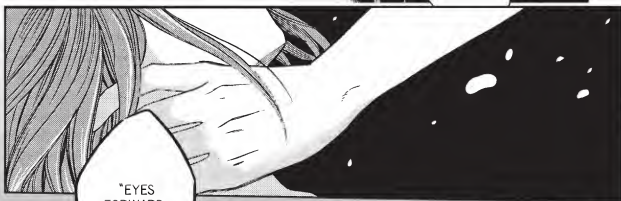
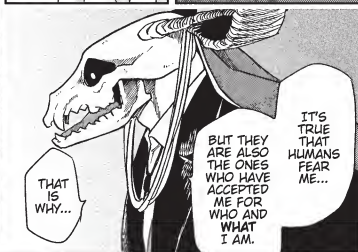
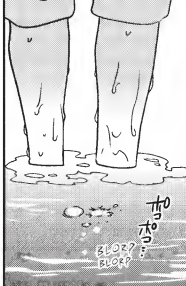


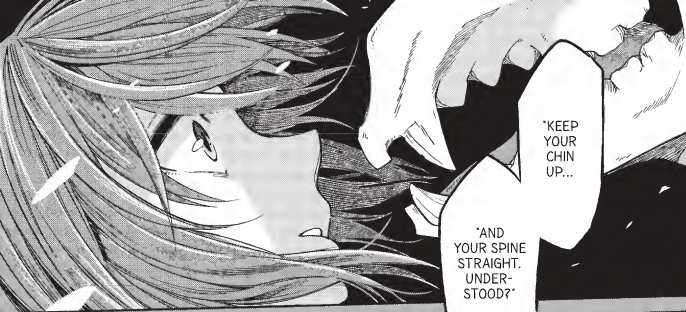
BUT I DO
WISH TO
LEARN.

I AM STILL
NOT TERRIBLY
KNOWLEDGE-
ABLE ABOUT
THE HUMAN
HEART.









"KEEP
YOUR
CHIN
UP..."

"AND
YOUR SPINE
STRAIGHT.
UNDER-
STOOD?"



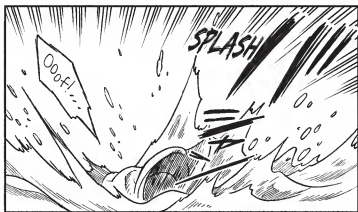
BLORP

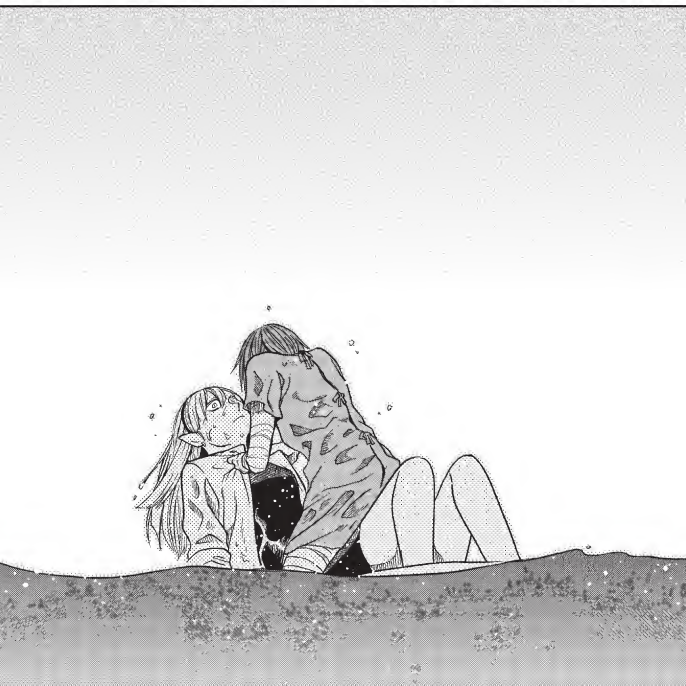


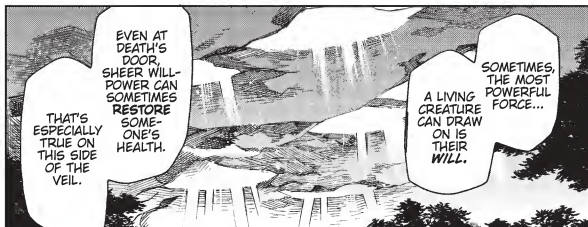
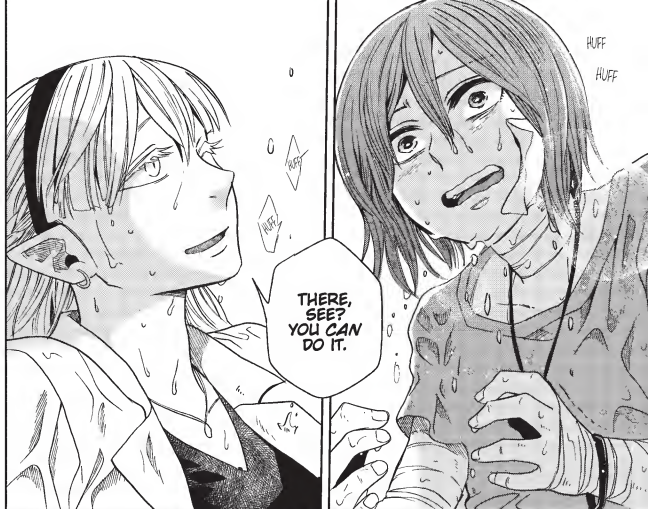
GIVEN
THE
CHOICE...

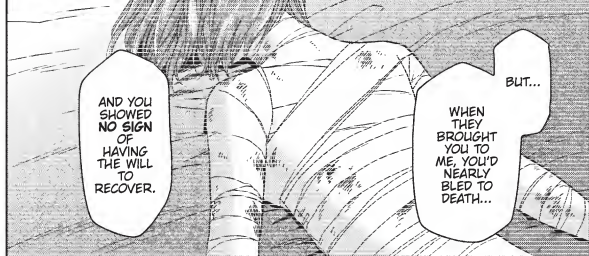
I WISH
FOR CHISE
TO LIVE
HER LIFE
AS A
HUMAN.











AND YOU
SHOWED
NO SIGN
OF
HAVING
THE WILL
TO
RECOVER.

BUT...

WHEN
THEY
BROUGHT
YOU TO
ME, YOU'D
NEARLY
BLED TO
DEATH...



BUT
THIS
TIME...

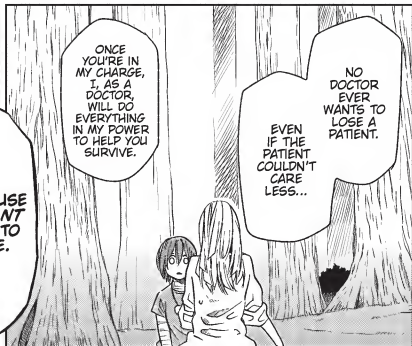
YOU
RESISTED.
YOU
FOUGHT
BACK.



THAT'S
WHY YOUR
WOUNDS
DIDN'T
CLOSE.



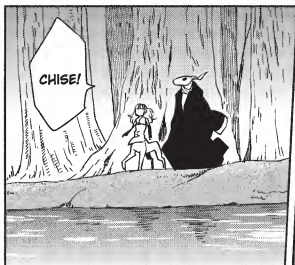
BECAUSE
I WANT
YOU TO
LIVE.



ONCE
YOU'RE IN
MY CHARGE,
I, AS A
DOCTOR,
WILL DO
EVERYTHING
IN MY POWER
TO HELP YOU
SURVIVE.

NO
DOCTOR
EVER
WANTS TO
LOSE A
PATIENT.

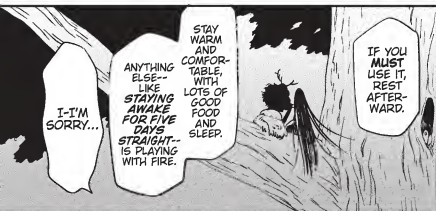
EVEN
IF THE
PATIENT
COULDN'T
CARE
LESS...





BUT UNTIL YOU FIND A PERMANENT SOLUTION, IT'S BEST TO AVOID USING MAGIC AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

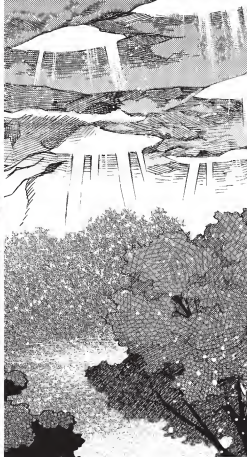
YOU CAN HAVE ANOTHER SUPPRESSION RING MADE...



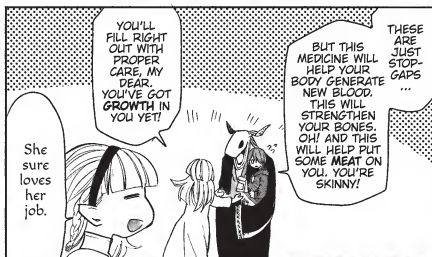
I-I'M SORRY...

STAY WARM AND COMFORTABLE, WITH LOTS OF GOOD FOOD AND SLEEP. ANYTHING ELSE-- LIKE STAYING AWAKE FOR FIVE DAYS STRAIGHT-- IS PLAYING WITH FIRE.

IF YOU MUST USE IT, REST AFTERWARD.



SEE YOU!
BE WELL.

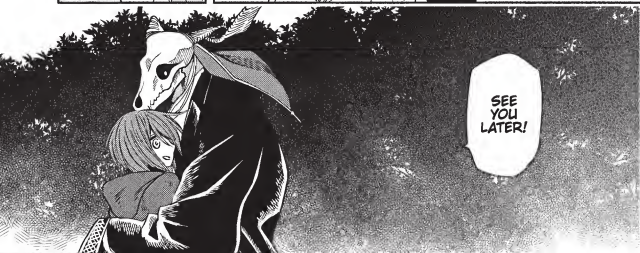


She sure loves her job.

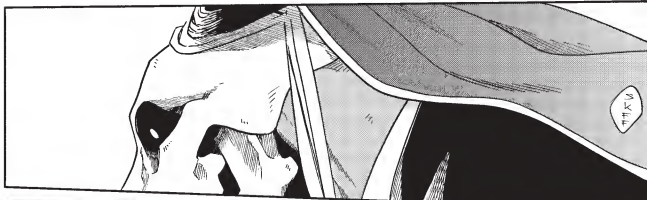
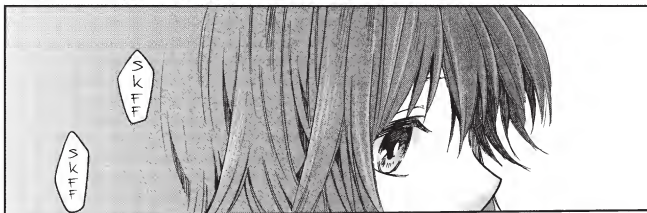
YOU'LL FILL RIGHT OUT WITH PROPER CARE, MY DEAR. YOU'VE GOT GROWTH IN YOU YET!

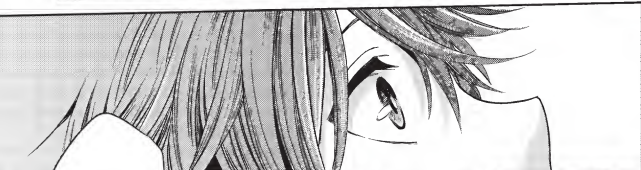
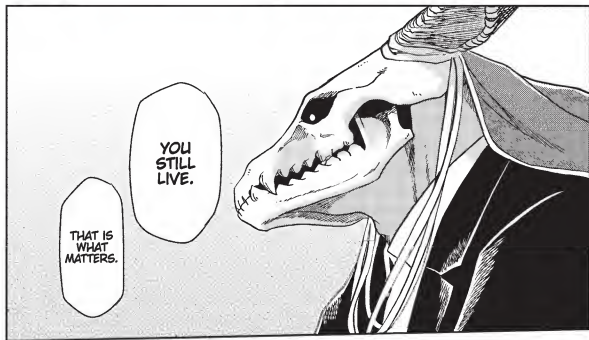
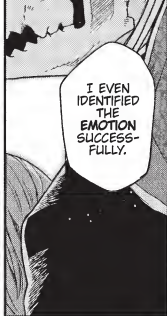
BUT THIS MEDICINE WILL HELP YOUR BODY GENERATE NEW BLOOD. THIS WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR BONES. OH! AND THIS WILL HELP PUT SOME MEAT ON YOU. YOU'RE SKINNY!

THESE ARE JUST STOP-GAPS ...



SEE YOU LATER!







SILKY.

WE'LL
BE AWAY
FOR A
TIME.

PLEASE
WATCH
OVER
THE
HOUSE.



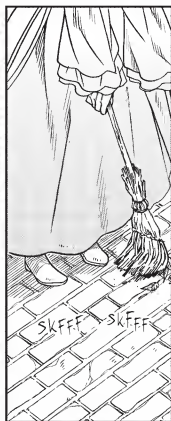
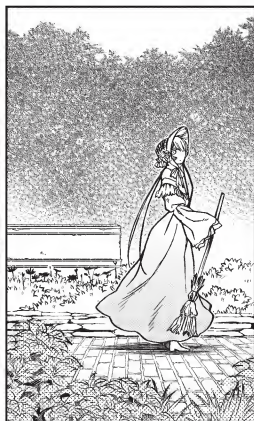
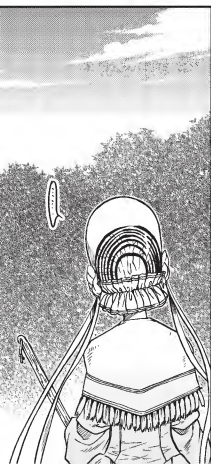
Chapter 24: There's no place like home.

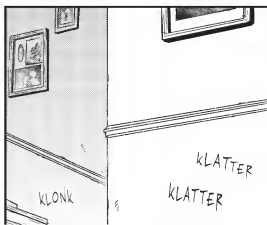
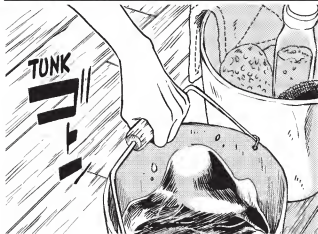
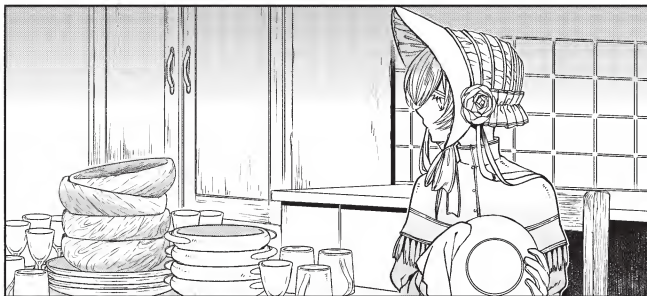


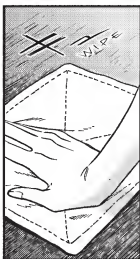
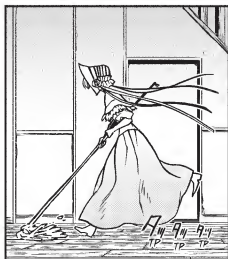
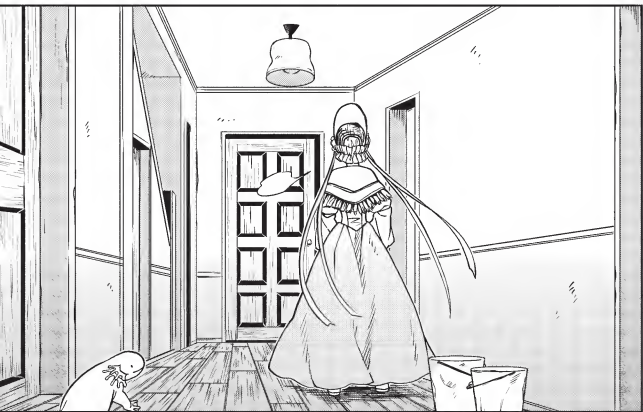
Chapter 24: There's no place like home.

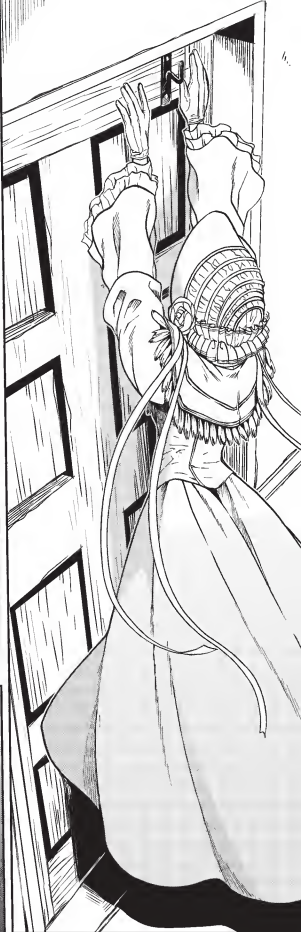
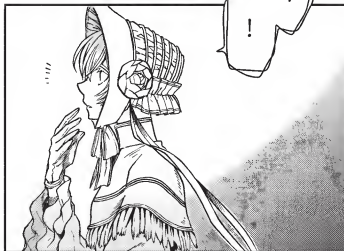
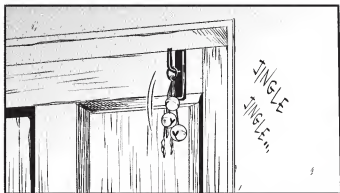


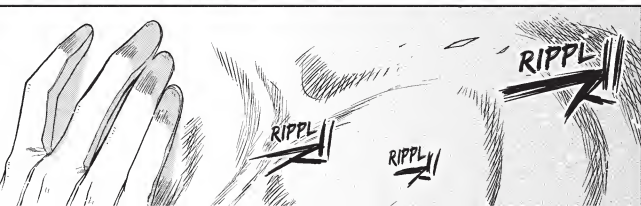
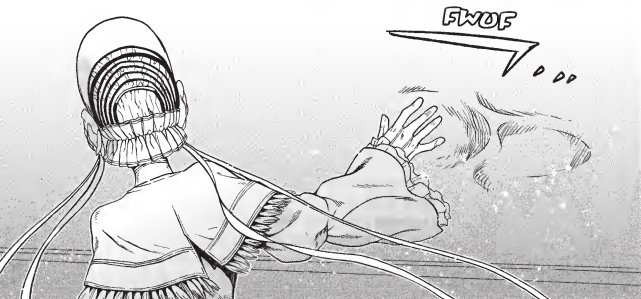
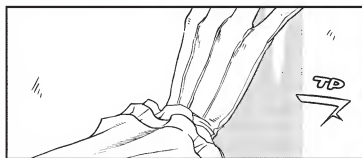
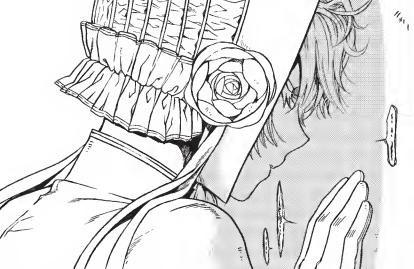
RSTL

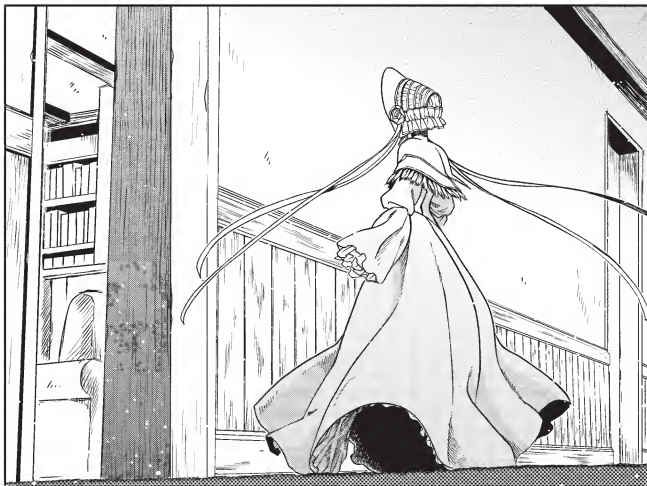
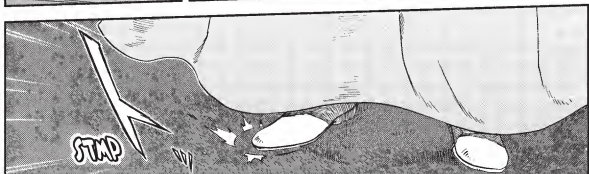
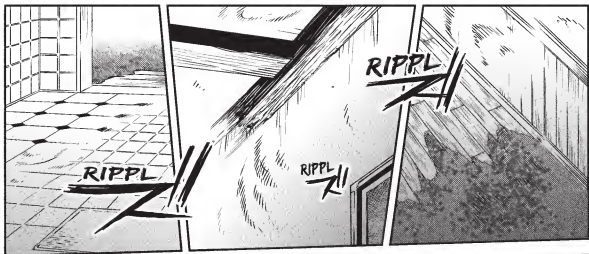






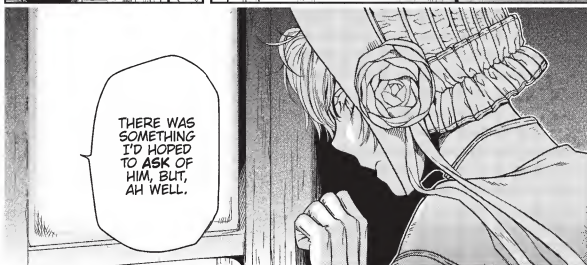
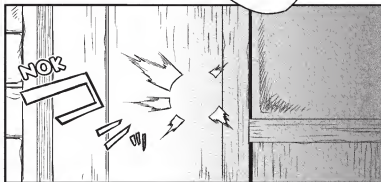


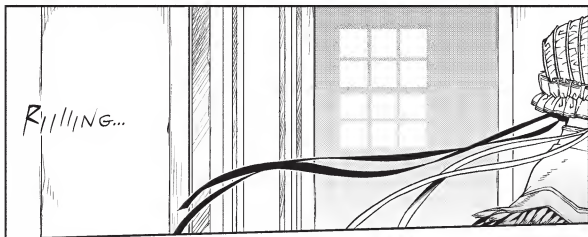
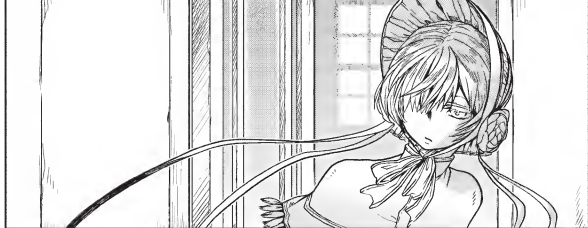




RllllllING...



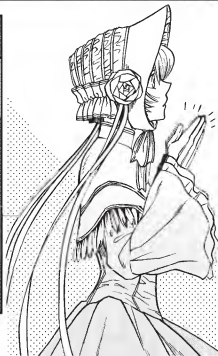
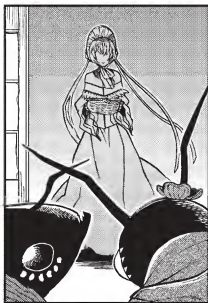
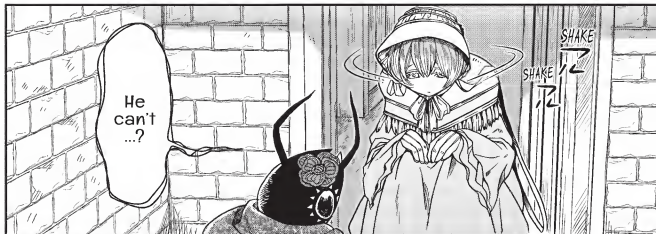
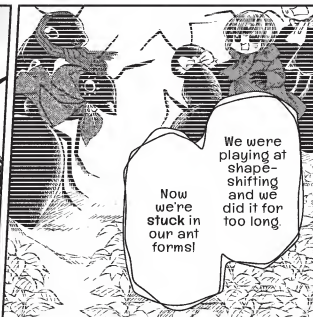
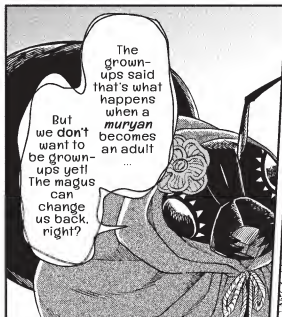


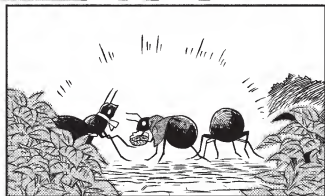
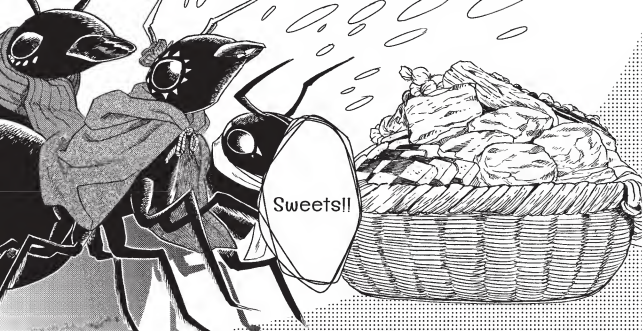


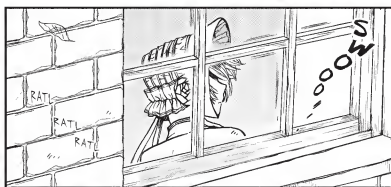
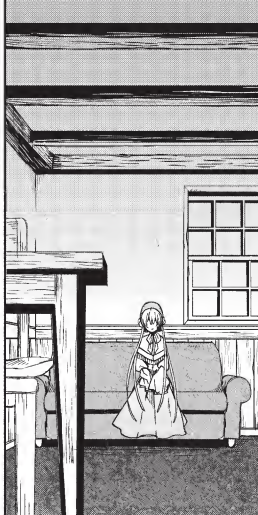
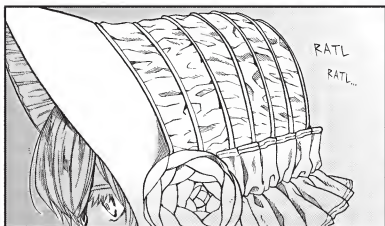
Is the
good
magus
in?

Your
pardon,
Miss!

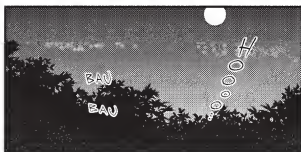










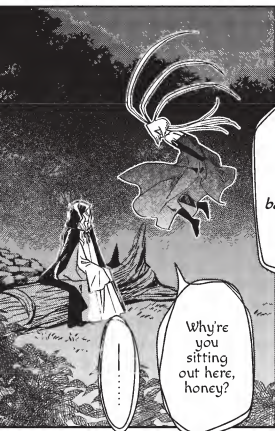




Oh my!



... a a a ...

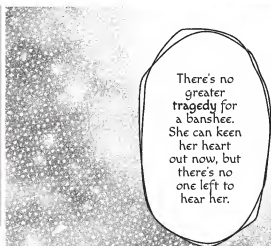
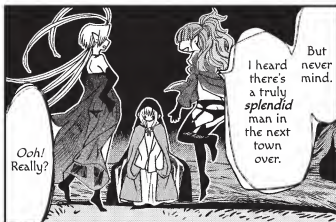
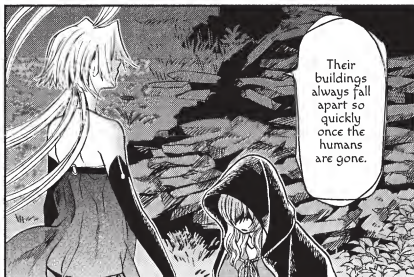


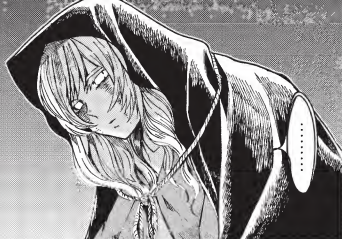
Why're you sitting out here, honey?



Hello there.

Aren't you a banshee...?





.....



I hope he's handsome.

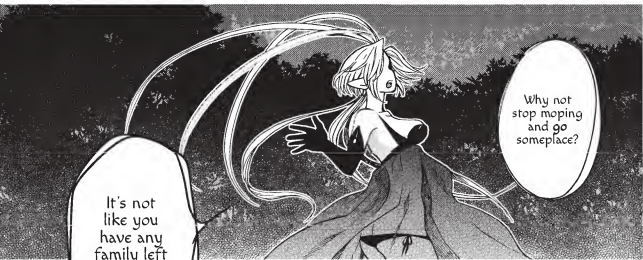
What does that matter?

The best men are poets who spin poems with the delicacy of a spring rainfall.

No, no. One whose words are as warm and bright as sunshine is far better!



Listen, honey.

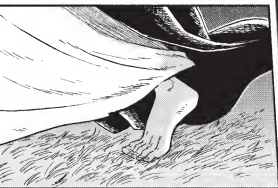


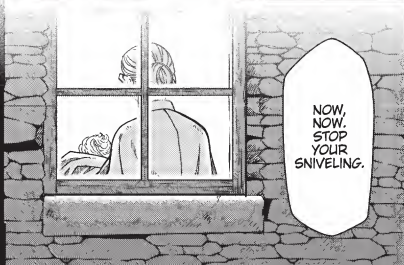
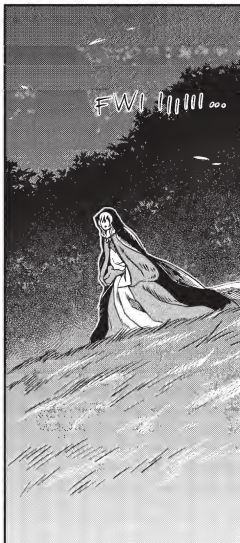
Why not stop moping and go someplace?

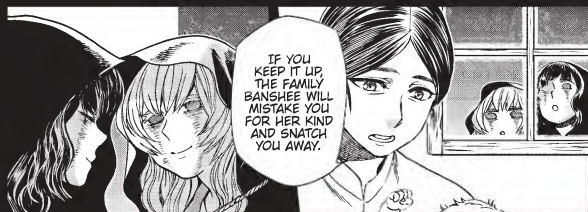
It's not like you have any family left to hear you anyway!





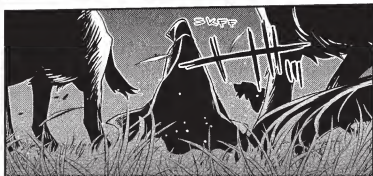


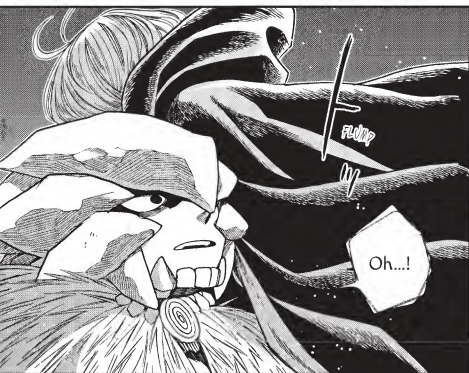


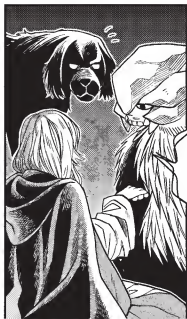
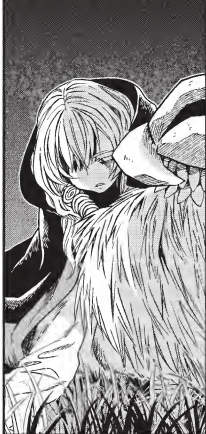
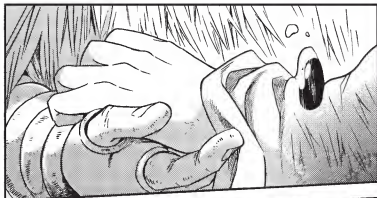


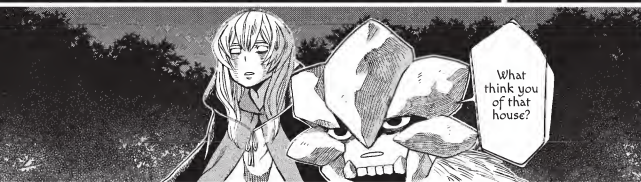


What
brings a
banshee
out here?















This suits
you far
better than
fading
away like
a ghost.



Ahhh.

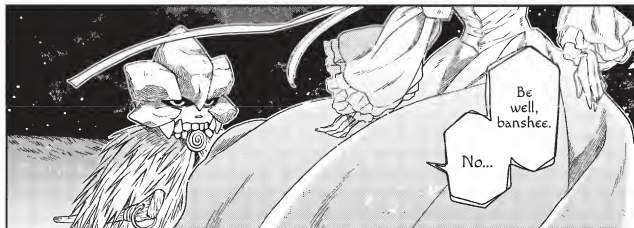
The very
picture of
a silver
flower in
bloom.

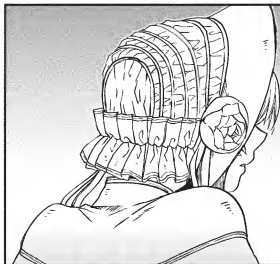


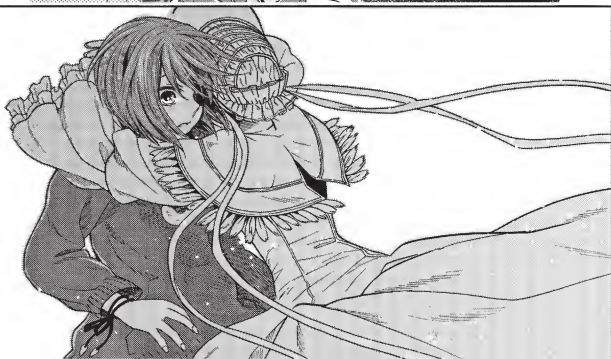
We hill
folk are
called to
protect
those in
need.

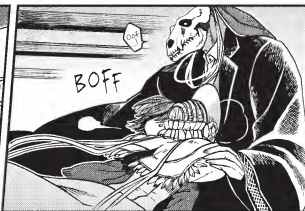
No
need
for thanks.







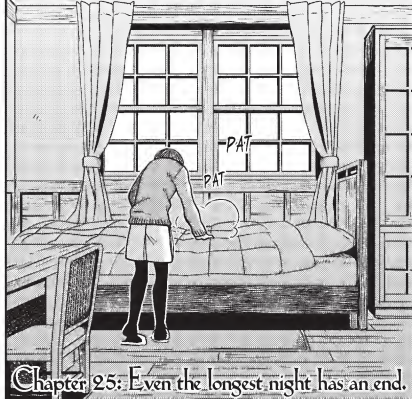




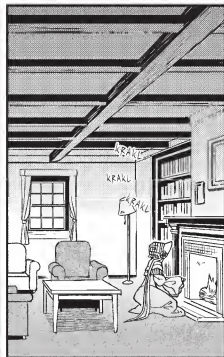
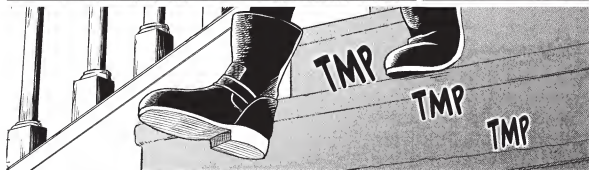
HUMANS
CALL ME
"SILKY."

IT IS MY
DUTY...

TO NURTURE
THE LIGHT
THAT SHINES
WITHIN MY
HOME.



Chapter 25: Even the longest night has an end.





Chapter 25: Even the longest night has an end.



EVEN AT
THIS TIME
OF DAY,
IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
JUST
PAST
DAWN.









WHO
CAN
SAY?

GOOD
MORNING,
ELIAS.

WHO
WERE
THEY...?



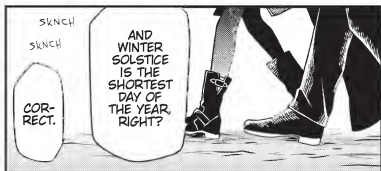
IT'S ONE
OF THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT
DAYS OF THE
YEAR. THERE
ARE MANY
OBSERVANCES
TO BE MADE.



SOME
PEOPLE
CALL THEM
"HERALDS
OF YULE,"
BUT NO ONE
KNOWS FOR
CERTAIN
WHAT THEY
ARE.

THEY
GO ABOUT
WARNING
FOLK THAT
YULE IS
UPON US.

THEY
APPEAR
WHEN
YULETIDE--
THE
WINTER
SOLSTICE--
APPROACH-
ES.

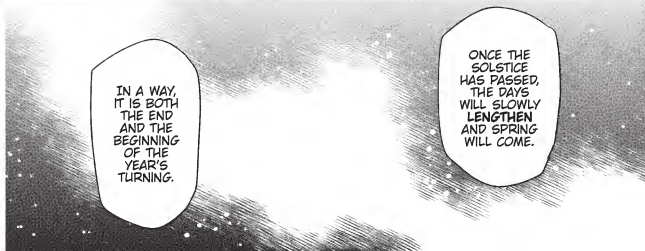


SKNCH

SKNCH

COR-
RECT.

AND
WINTER
SOLSTICE
IS THE
SHORTEST
DAY OF
THE YEAR.
RIGHT?



IN A WAY,
IT IS BOTH
THE END
AND THE
BEGINNING
OF THE
YEAR'S
TURNING.

ONCE THE
SOLSTICE
HAS PASSED,
THE DAYS
WILL SLOWLY
LENGTHEN
AND SPRING
WILL COME.



HOLLY
AND IVY
ARE BOTH
WARDS
AGAINST ILL
FORTUNE.

SINCE THEY
GIFTED US
WITH THESE,
WE SHOULD
DISPLAY
THEM
IN THE
HOUSE.



"SAM-
HAIN"?

THIS YEAR
WE WERE
UNABLE TO
OBSERVE
SAMHAIN.
WE'D BE
WISE TO BE
EXTRA
DILIGENT
FOR
YULETIDE.

YOU MAY
KNOW
IT AS
"HALLOWEEN."



I WILL,
REALLY!
I PROMISE.

.....

I
WILL.

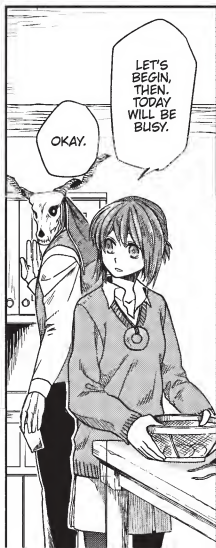
IF YOU
FEEL
TIRED OR
DRAINED,
YOU WILL
SPEAK
UP. ALL
RIGHT?



UH...
RUTH?
HE'S,
UM...

I
HAVEN'T
SEEN
HIM IN
SOME
TIME.

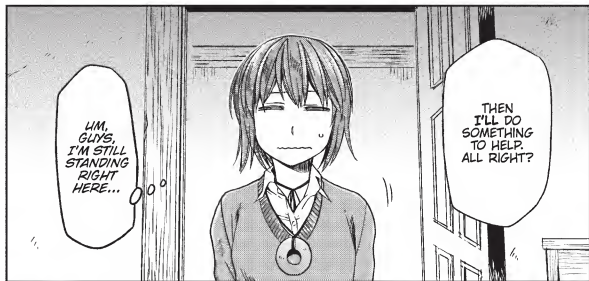
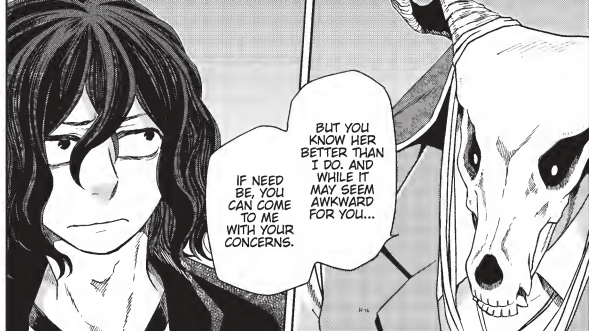
WHERE
HAS
RUTH
GOTTEN
TO?

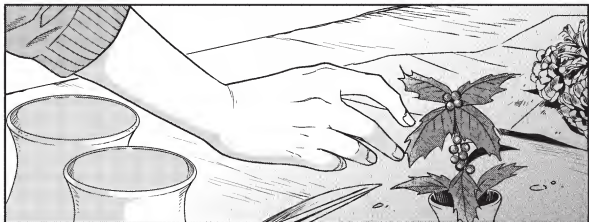


OKAY.

LET'S
BEGIN,
THEN.
TODAY
WILL BE
BUSY.







IS THAT SO? FASCINATING.

IN JAPAN, PEOPLE ALSO THINK IT HAS PROTECTIVE POWERS.

I DIDN'T KNOW HOLLY WAS USED AS A PROTECTIVE CHARM HERE.

WHAT'S MORE, THE NEIGHBORS ENJOY SEEING THE GREEN OF LIFE IN WINTER. THEY WON'T WORK MISCHIEF AT HOUSES DECORATED WITH SUCH PLANTS.

HOLLY AND IVY ARE BOTH EVERGREEN PLANTS. THEY BRIGHTEN THE DARKNESS OF THE LONGEST NIGHT.

SHEL
SHEL

IVY ISN'T VERY COMMON IN JAPAN.

BUT IT STANDS TO REASON THAT SOME THINGS ARE CONSISTENT FROM REGION TO REGION.

SPECIFIC OBSERVANCES VARY BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND CULTURES ...

OH,
I SEE.

WOULD
IT MAKE
SENSE FOR
HOLLY
TO HAVE
POWER
IN, SAY, A
DESERT?
OR A
JUNGLE?

IT
SEEMS
UNLIKELY.

?

DO YOU
THINK IT
COULD BE
USED AS
A WARD
THERE,
TOO?

SOME WILL
HAVE POWER
ONLY IN THEIR
NATIVE LANDS.
FOR EXAMPLE,
HOLLY IS AN
EFFECTIVE
WARD IN
PLACES WHERE
IT IS SEEN TO
HAVE THAT
PROPERTY.

EACH
LAND WILL
HAVE
ITS OWN
PLANTS AND
POWERFUL
ARTIFACTS.

NOW,
THEN.

LET US
GO RUN
A FEW
ERRANDS...

SO THAT
I MAY
TEACH YOU
THE WAYS
OF THIS
ISLAND
COUNTRY
OF RAIN
AND FOG.

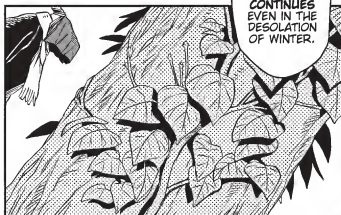
A MAGE
IS SIMPLY
SOMEONE
WHO IS
LEARNED
IN THOSE
WAYS.

AS
THERE ARE
DIFFERENT
PEOPLE IN
DIFFERENT
LANDS, SO TOO
ARE THERE
DIFFERENT
SPIRITS,
POWERS, AND
CUSTOMS.



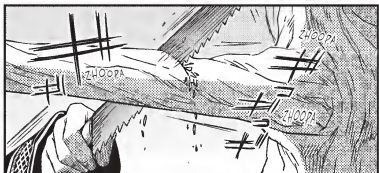


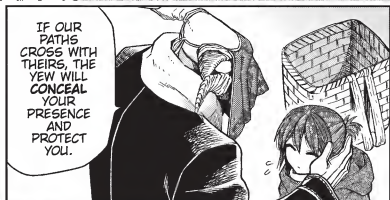
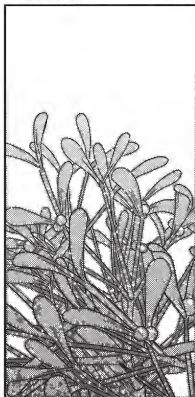
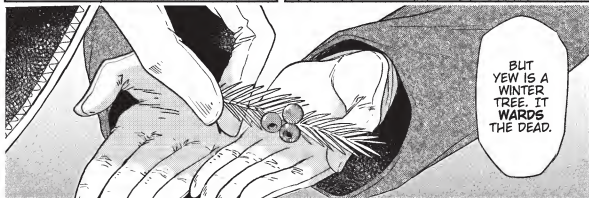
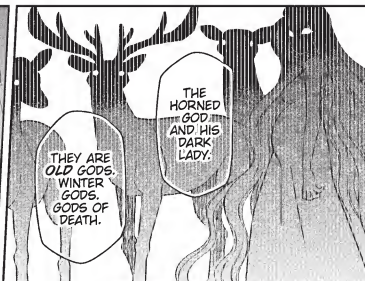
HOLLY'S
GREEN
LEAVES
AND RED
BERRIES
SHOW
THAT LIFE
CONTINUES
EVEN IN THE
DESOLATION
OF WINTER.

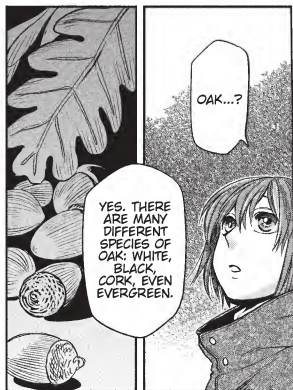
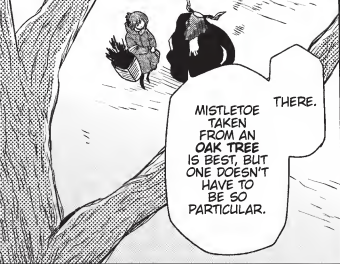


IVY'S
SHAPE IS
REMINISCENT
OF BOTH
SNAKES
AND A
GODDESS'S
EMBRACE.

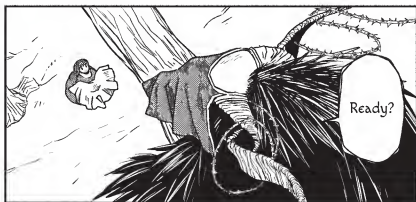
THERE IS
A PROPER
LENGTH
OF TIME
TO KEEP
THEM IN
THE HOME.













WHAT A
STRANGE,
BEAUTIFUL
PLANT...



I'VE
SEEN IT
BEFORE,
BUT NEVER
THIS
CLOSE UP.



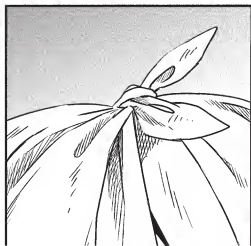
I
CAUGHT
IT!

WHEW!

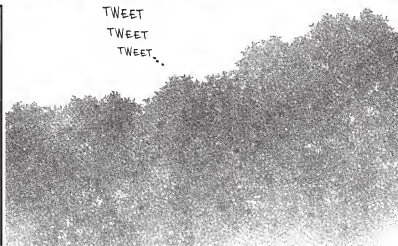


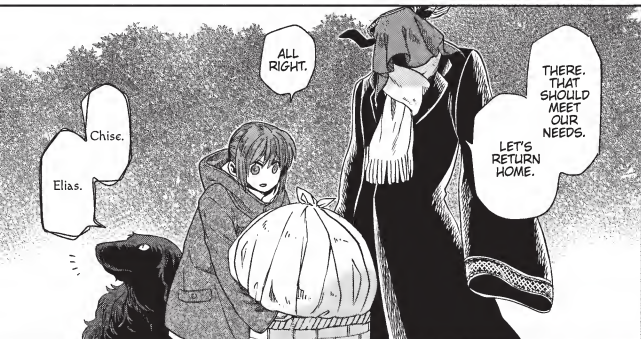
OKAY!

I think
I'll cut
down a
couple
more
bunches.



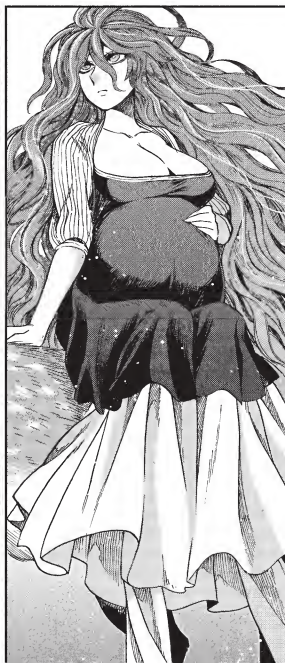
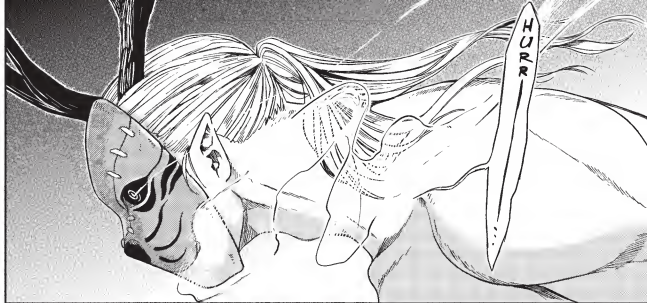
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET...

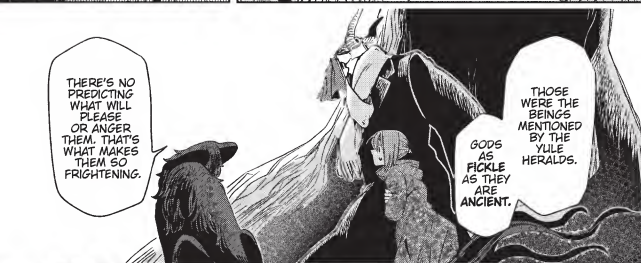
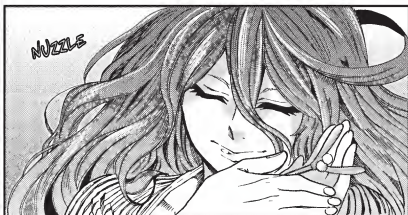
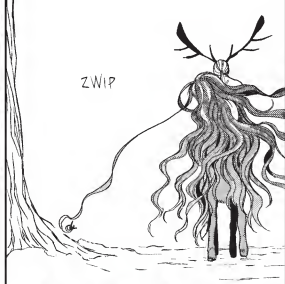
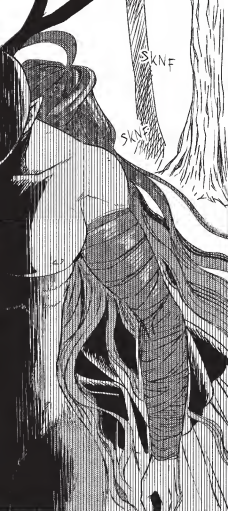


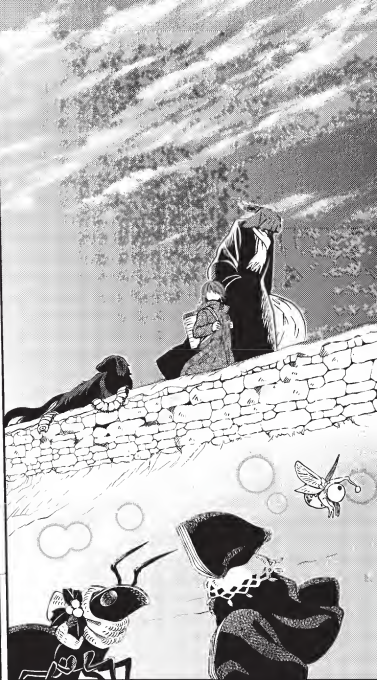


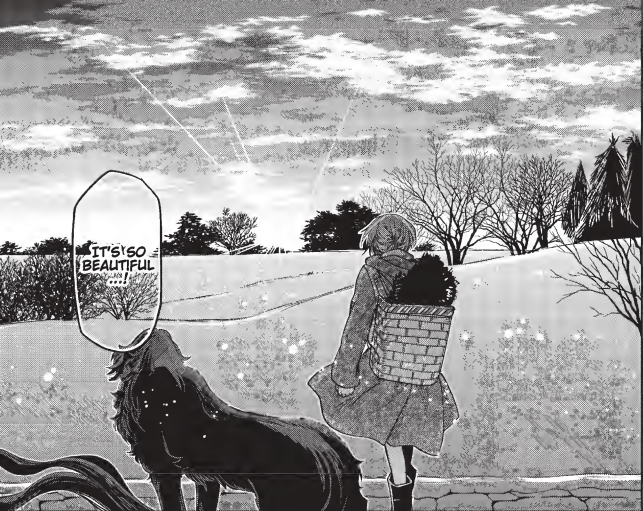












I GUESS
I CAN'T
SIMPLY
ASK
AROUND
TO SEE IF
OTHER
PEOPLE
AGREE.

SO FEW
OTHER
HUMANS
CAN
SEE THE
NEIGHBORS
AS PART
OF THE
VIEW.

IT
IS TO
ME, AT
LEAST.

THAT'S
"BEAUTY,"
IS IT?

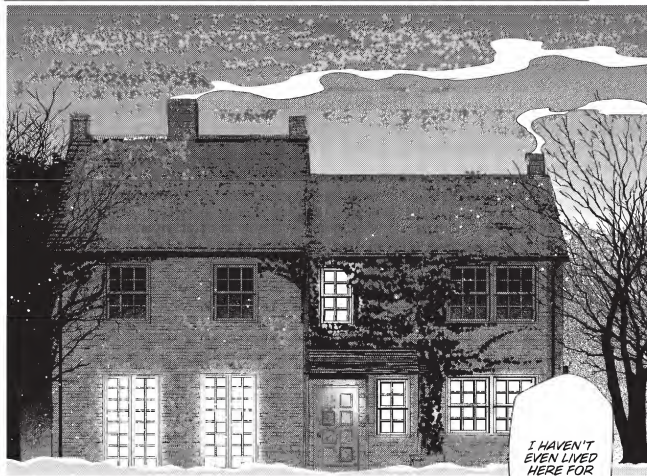
ALTHOUGH,
I THINK
JUST THE
LIGHTS IN
A HOUSE
WINDOW
ARE
LOVELY
TOO.

TMP!!



THE
MISTLETOE
WILL GO
ABOVE
THE
DOORS.

WHAT'RE
WE GOING
TO DO WITH
EVERY-
THING WE
BROUGHT
HOME?



I HAVEN'T
EVEN LIVED
HERE FOR
A FULL
YEAR YET.

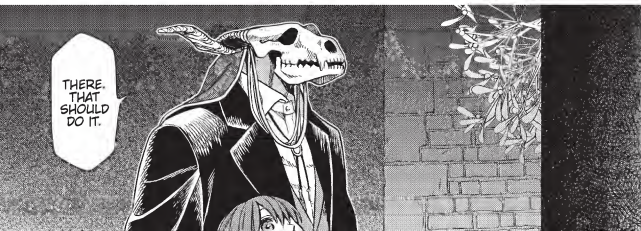
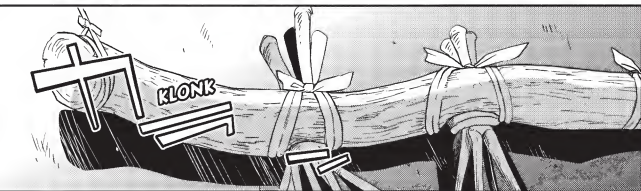
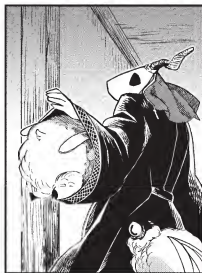


WE'D BEST
BEGIN BY
SETTING
THE
YULE LOG
ALIGHT.

BUT IT
FEELS LIKE
I'VE BEEN
COMING
HOME
TO THIS
HOUSE
AND ITS
LIGHTS...

FOR A
LONG,
LONG
TIME.

I HAVEN'T
EVEN LIVED
HERE FOR
A FULL
YEAR YET.



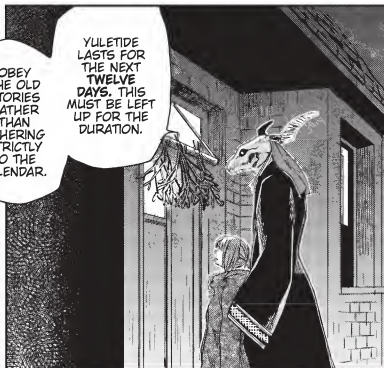
THERE.
THAT
SHOULD
DO IT.



GOT IT.

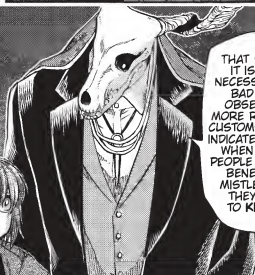
OBEY THE OLD STORIES RATHER THAN ADHERING STRICTLY TO THE CALENDAR.

YULETIDE LASTS FOR THE NEXT TWELVE DAYS. THIS MUST BE LEFT UP FOR THE DURATION.



REALLY ...?

THAT'S AN INTERESTING CUSTOM.



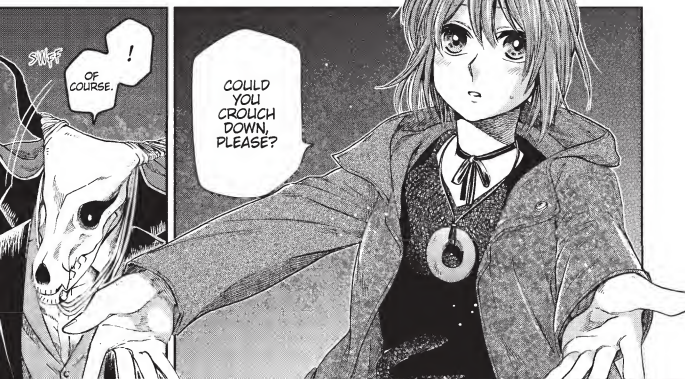
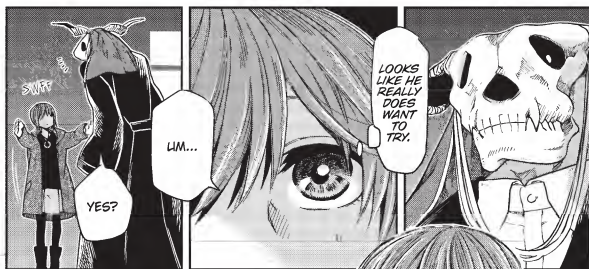
THAT SAID, IT ISN'T NECESSARILY BAD TO OBSERVE MORE RECENT CUSTOMS. ONE INDICATES THAT WHEN TWO PEOPLE STAND BENEATH MISTLETOE, THEY'RE TO KISS.



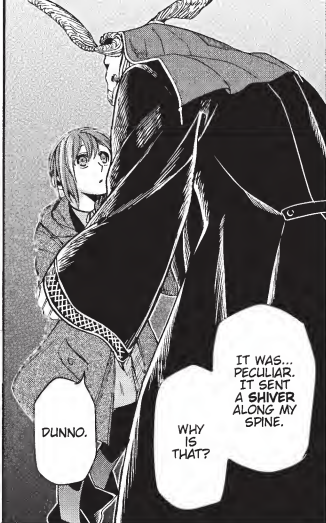
WOULD YOU CARE TO TRY IT?

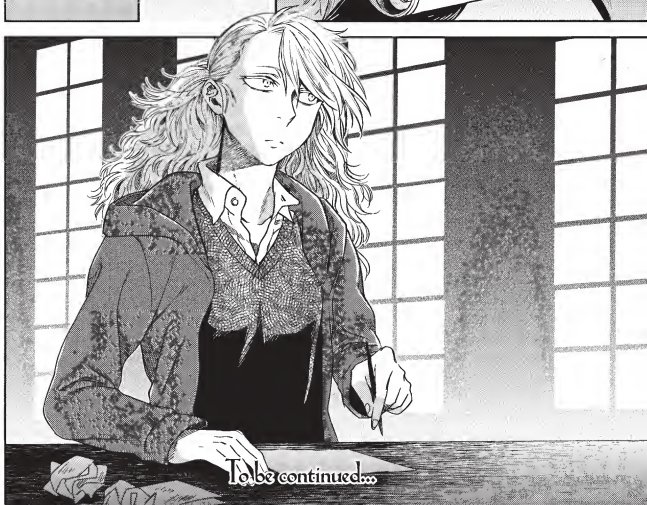
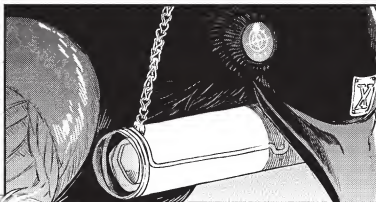
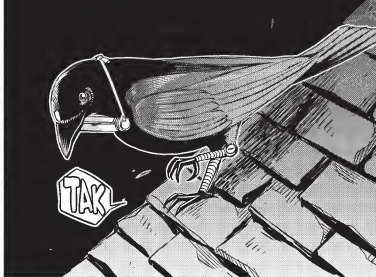
HUH ?!





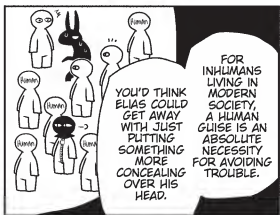
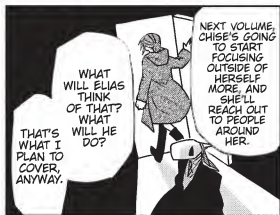
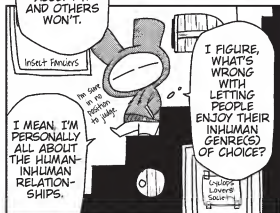
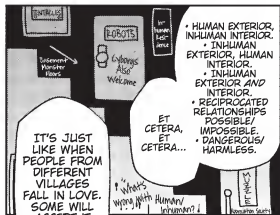




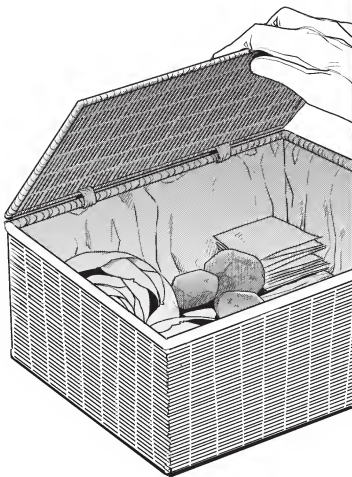
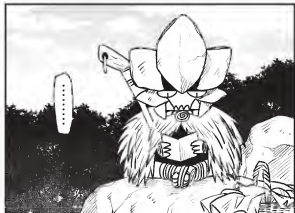


The
Ancient
Magus' Bride

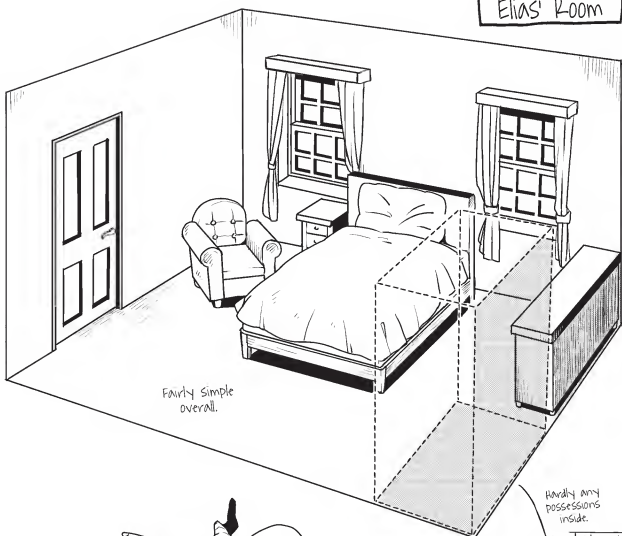
The
Ancient
Magus' Bride



Silky's Diary



Elias' Room



Hardly any possessions inside.

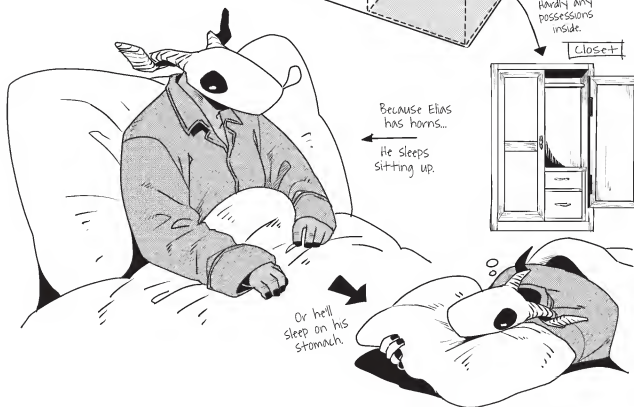
Closet



Because Elias has horns...

He sleeps sitting up.

Or he'll sleep on his stomach.



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

The Ancient Magus' Bride

VOLUME 5

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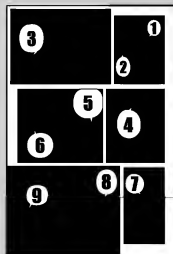
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



A FAIRY IN NEED

Chise has taken great strides in overcoming her dark past, and is ready for a brighter future at Elias' side. As for the magus himself, he is finally able to put a name to the strange emotion he's been feeling for Chise. Meanwhile, a deadly threat looms. When a panicked fairy appears at Chise's bedside, begging for help, is there anything the young, novice mage can do...?



Rated: TEEN

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